

# THE TIMES

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## New turmoil hits Clinton over prostitute's son

FROM DAMIAN WHITWORTH IN WASHINGTON

THE teenage son of a black Arkansas prostitute is awaiting the results of a DNA test to determine if he was fathered by President Clinton. It was reported yesterday.

The new claim came as the Senate wrangled over how to proceed with an impeachment trial of Mr Clinton for high crimes and misdemeanours relating to his affair with

Monica Lewinsky. Danny Williams, 13, whose mother Bobbie Ann has long insisted that he was the product of one of a number of sexual encounters with Mr Clinton, was said to be in hiding last night with representatives of *The Star*, a supermarket tabloid newspaper.

According to Matt Drogue, the Internet gossip columnist who brought the world to Monica Lewinsky, the boy was persuaded by *The Star* to supply a sample of

his DNA, but the results of a comparison with Mr Clinton's DNA is not yet known. The prospect of such a test presented itself when Mr Clinton provided DNA that was used to prove that it was his semen on Monica Lewinsky's dress.

It was unclear last night whether *The Star* had obtained a sample of Mr Clinton's DNA or was intending to compare the Williams sample with the detailed genetic information about Mr Clinton con-

tained in the report from Kenneth Starr, the independent counsel. Mr Drogue reported that such records were 99 per cent accurate.

Ms Williams has claimed that Mr Clinton paid her for sex on several occasions when he was Governor of Arkansas and she was a prostitute in Little Rock. She passed a lie detector test and has been co-operating with Richard Gooding, the reporter responsible for breaking the story that Dick Morris, Mr Clinton's former adviser, consorted with prostitutes. The White House declined to comment last night on the report.

The emergence of another woman in the President's life came as senators argued over how to try him on charges arising from his affair with Ms Lewinsky. With it looking almost certain, barring new developments, that the required two thirds of the 100-member Senate will not remove Mr Clinton from of-

fice by voting to convict him on the two articles of impeachment, the disagreement among senators is over how quickly to rid themselves of the case.

Trent Lott, the Republican Senate majority leader, has proposed that the trial should be opened, probably next Monday, and that the prosecutors from the House of Representatives and the White House defence team should be allowed a day each to argue their cases, for and against conviction. The Senate would then have a day to ask questions before voting on whether its members believe that the facts of the case, if true, warrant the President's removal from office.

If anything less than two thirds of senators are of that view, it is likely that a full trial with witnesses and explicit evidence would be abandoned and that Mr Clinton would receive a firm rebuke in the form of a censure motion.

## Markets give a boost to the euro

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY AND JAMES LANDALE

THE EURO last night made a confident debut in overseas markets as trading in the single currency finally became a reality.

Full-scale trading began last night in Sydney, the first major currency market to reopen following the new year break, with the euro immediately making modest gains from last week's official conversion price. Japanese traders, who were at their desks from 3am local time, also reported the euro gaining against the yen.

For most of the 300 million people covered by the single currency, however, the euro's birth offered no drama as they recovered from new year festivities with little to show for the leap to currency union.

From Dublin to Rome, euro pioneers enjoyed the novelty of writing cheques and using euro credit cards in restaurants and supermarkets, but the practice remains optional until euro notes and coins appear in January 2002. The first euro-denominated postage stamps and bank statements also appeared.

The markets are expecting the euro to strengthen in the coming weeks as investors and Central Banks shift an estimated thousand billion dollars out of other currencies such as the dollar and sterling and into the euro.

Trading, however, is likely to be cautious in the first few days with many banks worried that systems problems and human error could cause

huge losses. The Bank of England gave a warning on Friday that problems may not become apparent until later in the week.

One point is already clear: an especially bumpy ride as it is "now trapped between the dollar and the euro. Analysts are divided on whether investors will sell the pound for the euro - bringing relief to hard-pressed exporters - or will continue to view the pound as an attractive "safe haven".

Sydney traders quoted an opening price of \$1.747 compared with the European Commission's conversion price of \$1.665. The euro also gained against the pound, climbing from 70.54p to 70.80p.

European Union leaders, most of them new from left-wing governments, are worried that too fast an appreciation in the value of the euro, while reassuring the markets, could undermine their job creation efforts.

Anti-euro campaigners, meanwhile, stepped up their campaign against British membership of the single currency. Lord Owen, the former Labour Foreign Secretary, unveiled the launch of a group of leading pro-Europeans opposed to the euro.

Members, who include Lord Prior, the former Tory Cabinet minister, and Martin Taylor, the former Barclays chief executive, are currently drawing up a paper outlining their economic and political opposition to the euro.



STEPHEN DANIELS

### A Mounties' coat catches royal eye

About 500 wellwishers were on hand when the Queen led members of the Royal Family out of Sandringham Church yesterday, but the spectator to really catch the party's attention was Bryan Firth - thanks to his grizzly bear coat (writes Michael Harvey).

In her 98 years, the Queen Mother had never seen anything quite like it. The grizzly bear coat, made from a bear pelt, was keeping off the rain as Mr Firth, 73, walked with a friend. He

was spotted first by Prince Philip who commented: "What a wonderful coat". The Prince drew it to the attention of the Queen Mother, who spoke to Mr Firth, right. Equally taken

by the shaggy coat - worn by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and about 80 years old - she called to the others, including Prince Charles and Prince Harry, to have a look.

Mr Firth, a former racing commentator, of Great Bircham, near King's Lynn, said that the coat "was standard issue to the Mounties in the 20s and 30s. It is excellent if the weather is cold and wet like it is today. The rain just rolls off."



## Switch from grammars 'will cost £500m'

BY JAMES LANDALE AND JOHN O'LEARY

EDUCATION authorities could be forced to take more than half a billion pounds out of frontline teaching budgets to pay for transforming grammar schools into comprehensive schools.

The substantial costs of reorganising schools if parents vote to make them comprehensive are disclosed in internal council documents obtained by *The Times*.

Education officials at Kent County Council, which runs a fifth of the remaining grammar schools, have estimated that turning them into comprehensives would cost £150 million. The Tories last night claimed that if the costs were mirrored across the country, local education authorities would have to find £500 million to pay for the move.

They said the hidden costs, which could lead to cuts in teachers' pay, books and equipment, were an "unexploded timebomb" underneath the Government's decision last year to give parents the choice

to end selection in their schools. Labour accused the Tories of "scaremongering".

The controversy set the stage for a series of battles across the country between campaigners struggling to preserve grammar schools and those keen to scrap selection.

Under last year's Schools Standards and Framework Act, parents have the right to change the status of Britain's 164 fully selective schools.

Twenty per cent of eligible parents must sign a petition by July before a ballot - requiring a simple majority - can take place in the autumn. The Government has refused to offer any extra money to pay for the cost of reorganisation.

The paper, drawn up in December by Kent education officials, gives warning of the "substantial costs" of changing their 33 grammar schools to comprehensives. The costs will be high because many grammar schools are too small to become comprehensive and would be forced to amalgamate. This would involve many schools having to close down, sell their properties, and move to new locations big enough to take in pupils from several former grammar schools.

Costs would also be incurred by resulting changes in transport arrangements, such as increased and reorganised school bus runs, and by redundancy payments to sacked teachers.

Damian Green, a Tory education spokesman, said: "Those costs will come from the reorganisation that will be required because a significant proportion of grammar schools are too small simply to become comprehensive. Ofsted has recommended that to be a successful comprehensive, you need at least 900 pupils." Labour councillors on Kent education authority have demanded that the estimate be withdrawn from the report.

Leading article, page 21

### Safety signal for Charlie Whelan

The future of Gordon Brown's press aide Charlie Whelan looked more secure after Downing Street backed away from demanding his dismissal over his alleged involvement in Peter Mandelson's downfall.

Downing Street made clear that Mr Whelan's future was entirely in the hands of Mr Brown. Page 2

### Sharif escapes bridge bombers

Nawaz Sharif, the Pakistani Prime Minister, narrowly escaped assassination yesterday. A bomb exploded under a bridge outside the Punjab capital of Lahore shortly before Mr Sharif and his family crossed it.

Members of the Muttahida Qaumi movement, whose supporters are Urdu-speaking, were arrested. Page 13

### United Cup win

Manchester United came from behind to beat Middlesbrough 3-1 in the Third Round of the FA Cup yesterday. They will meet Liverpool in the next round. Page 25

## Two die as 75mph winds batter the South

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY

TWO people died yesterday, and 25 weekenders were rescued from the sea as heavy rain, high seas and 75mph winds battered southern England, felling trees and power lines and tearing roofs from their moorings.

Scattered showers and sunny breaks are forecast today in the South, but prolonged rain and gale-force winds are expected in northern England and Scotland.

Robert Bridger, 70, was crushed to death when an oak tree fell on him in his garden at Boleby, in West Sussex. His grandson, Robert Thomson, 11, escaped injury by running to safety.

In Somerset a 51-year-old man was killed as he walked along the canal towpath in Bridgwater. It is thought he was hit by parts of a tin roof.

Twenty-five people were plucked from the sea by lifeboats off the Essex coast. The annual three-quarter-mile Brass Monkey dingy race, by the Leigh-on-Sea Sailing Club, was abandoned within 15 minutes after winds

overturned nearly all 14 starters. A woman out walking with friends at Brown Coadover, near New Alresford in Hampshire, suffered serious head injuries when she was knocked unconscious by a falling tree.

Brighton's Palace Pier was evacuated as heavy seas threatened the safety of visitors, and in Selsey, West Sussex, a caravan park was flooded. In Exeter, Devon, Athalia Collins, 31, had a narrow escape when a tree crushed her car seconds after she had got out. Thames and Dover Coastguard sta-

tions received many emergency calls as winds gusting up to 60 knots overturned dozens of small boats, pitching their occupants into the sea.

At Aldeburgh, Suffolk, an RAF rescue helicopter picked up a windsurfer being carried out to sea. In Herne Bay the Whitstable lifeboat, which had been called out to assist small angling boats in distress, capsized at the harbour entrance. The crew managed to get ashore unaided.

Weather forecast, page 24

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# Riddle over Mandelson agent case

POLICE investigating the sudden collapse of a fraud case against Peter Mandelson's former election agent have been told that some people seemed to know several days in advance that it was going to be dropped.

The case against Bernard Carr, the MP's 1992 election agent, who was accused of fiddling council expenses, attracted attention because Mr Mandelson was likely to be called as a character witness. The withdrawal of charges by the Crown Prosecution Service minutes before the trial was due to start at Teesside Crown Court in February 1998 astonished the police. Not everybody was so surprised.

At a conference in Scarborough the previous weekend, a Hartlepool Labour councillor was told that Mr Mandelson would not be travelling North for the trial because it was being dropped.

Stan Kaiser, a Conservative councillor in the town, who says that he was told this by the Labour councillor, has written to Cleveland police asking for an investigation. The Assistant Chief Constable, Richard

Councillor says it was known that trial would be dropped, reports **Dominic Kennedy**

Brumstrom, said yesterday: "Police inquiries arising from the collapse of the trial in February 1998 have not been completed. It is a complicated situation which merits careful and measured consideration and we will not rush to a conclusion."

Mr Kaiser has declined to name publicly the Labour source. Six Hartlepool Labour councillors attended the Scarborough conference. He said: "If they were, in fact, told that the case was due to be cancelled, then that of course is a serious

breach of the law. That is a jailable offence somewhere along the line."

It was the second time in months that a criminal case against Mr Carr had been dropped. He was arrested in a public lavatory and charged with gross indecency with an 18-year-old man. Mr Carr was bailed to appear before Hartlepool magistrates but in December 1997 the CPS asked the bench to discontinue the case.

On the morning that Mr Carr's fraud trial was due to begin, the

prosecutors arrived expecting to proceed with a case which had cost an estimated £100,000 to investigate.

When new issues were raised by the defence, the prosecuting barrister again interviewed two witnesses, Bryan Hanson, then council leader, and John Walton, the chief finance officer. The prosecution decided to offer no evidence and Mr Carr was cleared of obtaining £666 by deception from the council and trying to obtain a further £65.

Ray Waller, Hartlepool council's

new Labour leader, wrote to the prosecutors asking why the case was suddenly dropped. The CPS replied that the two witnesses interviewed on the morning of the trial had produced evidence which undermined the case.

Both men have denied changing their evidence. In council circles, it is understood that they were asked whether councillors could claim expenses without the approval of the committee and confirmed that this was possible.

Mr Mandelson was reported to have queried police competence in preparing the case.

THE Scottish National Party last night distanced itself from one of its senior spokesmen after he appeared to suggest developing chemical and germ warfare capability in an independent Scotland.

Lieutenant-Colonel Stuart Crawford, the party's deputy defence spokesman, refused to tell the party whether he wrote a pamphlet claiming the SNP should consider such lethal weapons. The comments in the pamphlet, published last year under a pseudonym, have caused embarrassment and anger in nationalist ranks as they prepare their campaign for the Scottish parliament elections in May.

Mr Crawford, who is a Scottish parliament candidate for Edinburgh and Berwickshire, was only named deputy defence spokesman by the SNP leader Alex Salmond 12 days ago.

The Deputy Scottish Secretary, Helen Liddell, said Mr Salmond should waste no time in getting rid of Mr Crawford, who was a tank squadron commander during Operation Desert Storm in the Gulf during 1991. The Defence Secretary George Robertson, added: "Leaving this man in post would be to officially endorse an utterly naive and profoundly dangerous policy position."

The pamphlet on options for an independent Scottish Defence Force, was published under the name Jack Hawthorn for the Glasgow University Centre for War Studies, where Mr Crawford recently studied.

The author, who claimed to have been privy to recent internal SNP debate, stated: "Ballistic missiles have a utility which the SNP should at least consider. They can carry a wide variety of war heads, including chemical and biological payloads, which can be seen as cheap alternatives to nuclear ones for deterrent purposes."

In a statement issued by the SNP on Mr Crawford's behalf, he said he had never advocated the possession of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons.

"Academic analysis of defence options is one thing - clear, practical and costed policies as presented now by the SNP are much more important and much more relevant," he said.

## Article proposes Scottish germ weapons

By JASON ALLARDICE  
SCOTTISH POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Scottish National Party last night distanced itself from one of its senior spokesmen after he appeared to suggest developing chemical and germ warfare capability in an independent Scotland.

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Crawford: refused to discuss pamphlet

## Blair will not have Whelan sacked

By JAMES LANDALE

THE future of the Chancellor's press aide, Charlie Whelan, looked more secure last night after Downing Street backed away from demanding his dismissal over his alleged involvement in Peter Mandelson's downfall.

In a sign that the Prime Minister wants to avoid a fresh confrontation with Gordon Brown and defuse damaging publicity about splits in the Cabinet, Downing Street made clear that Mr Whelan's future was in the hands of Mr Brown.

Mr Whelan returned home to Peckham, southeast London, last night, after spending Christmas and the new year in hiding in Scotland, and is expected to return to his desk at the Treasury this morning.

He was accused of leaking details of a £373,000 home loan which Mr Mandelson, the former Trade and Industry Secretary, secured from Geoffrey Robinson, the former Paymaster General. Mr Whelan denied the charge. Both ministers subsequently resigned. The Prime Minister has come under pressure from ministers and officials to order Mr Brown to remove Mr Whelan. Last night as the press aide

arrived home he looked relaxed and willingly posed for photographs but was not answering questions from journalists. He said: "I have been on a long holiday. Give me a ring in the morning and I will answer all your questions then."

Asked whether he was going to resign he said: "You will know in the morning."

Tony Blair is understood to be keen to avoid a trial of strength with the Chancellor over the issue and will leave any decision to Mr Brown.

A Downing Street spokesman said yesterday: "Mr Whe-



Whelan: returned home from holiday last night

lan's future is a matter for the Chancellor as it always has been."

A Treasury spokesman said: "Mr Brown's aides made clear last week that they continued to have full confidence in Charlie Whelan and that continues to be the case."

The move was seen in Westminster as fresh evidence of the growing strength of the partnership between Mr Brown and John Prescott. The Deputy Prime Minister, who last week spoke of his "excellent" relations with the Chancellor, is understood to be opposed to sacking Mr Whelan.

The Chancellor's aide yesterday won the public and unlikely backing of Margaret Beckett, the Leader of the House of Commons. Mrs Beckett, who preceded Mr Mandelson as Trade and Industry Secretary, has not been seen as a natural ally of Mr Whelan's ever since her failure to secure a more generous national minimum wage from Mr Brown was widely leaked last summer.

But yesterday she told BBC Radio 5 Live: "I never subscribe to demanding anybody's head on a platter, particularly not when they are good at their job."



Ramblers climb a gate on Ravenstone Road yesterday in protest at what they say is the closure of a right of way

## Ramblers protest over closed path

RAMBLERS staged a protest walk yesterday along a path they say is being threatened by the quango that advises the Government on access to the countryside (Michael Hornsby writes).

The band of 30 walkers climbed over a gate blocking the mile-long stretch of path which they maintain is clearly shown as a public right of way on maps dating from 1770, but which local land-

owners say has not been used for decades. They are worried by plans by the Countryside Commission to set a cut-off date after which claims to reinstate paths based on historical evidence of their use would no longer be considered.

Kate Ashbrook, a former chairman of the Ramblers' Association, said: "This path, known for centuries as the Ravenstone Road, used to link the villages of

Ravenstone in Buckinghamshire, and Horton, in Northamptonshire. We have evidence that it was used by people going between the villages, and nearly 12 years ago we submitted a claim to Buckinghamshire County Council for the path to be recognised and marked on the definitive map. If the Countryside Commission's plan was in operation, the would have no chance of being restored."

## Prescott tipped to be Dome supremo

By JAMES LANDALE  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE campaign by John Prescott to re-establish his position in Government took a step forward yesterday after it emerged that he is poised to replace Peter Mandelson as the Millennium Dome supremo.

The Deputy Prime Minister is a leading contender to become "Dome Secretary" and take on the high-profile role of spearheading the millennium celebrations.

The development comes only days after Mr Prescott unveiled a new alliance with Gordon Brown to call for a return to traditional Labour values of market interventionism.

The move, in an interview last week, was seen as an attempt by Mr Prescott to take advantage of Tony Blair's absence on holiday and the vacuum left by Mr Mandelson's resignation to reassert his authority within Government.

Mr Prescott has always been a keen supporter of the Dome and was a key figure in persuading the Prime Minister to back the project in 1997 when some Cabinet ministers wanted it scrapped.

Government sources yesterday said the reports were "pure speculation", but they did not deny the claims. They added that Mr Prescott had enough on his plate as Secretary of State for the Environment.

But one option circulating at Westminster is for Mr Prescott to split the job with Lord Falconer of Thoroton, the Cabinet Office Minister.

## League tables to show police soft on speeding

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND STEWART TENDLER

POLICE forces that too often fail to stop and fine speeding motorists will be exposed in proposed new league tables. Ministers planning to cut the number of road deaths are alarmed by huge differences in the way that forces tackle motoring offences.

Speeding is the cause of about 1,200 road deaths out of the annual toll of 3,599. Government figures suggest that a third of police forces has seen a rise in the number of road casualties since 1990.

Ministers want to cut the road-death toll by at least 40 per cent by 2010, and plan to shame the worst areas of the country into taking tougher action. While forces such as Lancashire and Essex have taken a tough line on speeding, some metropolitan forces are accused of turning a blind eye.

Police and local authorities will be forced to present detailed proposals to reduce the

casualty rate and show the effectiveness of their work by detailing prosecution rates and accident levels. Details of casualty reductions, successful prosecutions and the amount spent on traffic policing will be publicly available, allowing tables of the best and worst performers to be drawn up.

Ministers are reluctant to draw direct comparisons between forces on accident rates or prosecutions, because of wide variations in population and types of roads. However, advisers have told ministers that year-to-year accident and prosecution trends within a police force can indicate the success of policing policy. Those could be compared nationally.

Tighter rules on traffic policing come in the wake of a critical report by Colin Smith, the Inspector of Constabulary, in which some police forces were accused of failing to do enough. The report said that

inconsistencies between forces "could discredit the criminal justice system".

Mr Smith complained that in one force, traffic courts were closing down due to a lack of prosecutions, although officers had stopped sufficient offenders. Another force that installed speed cameras had overburdened the local court, and police using radar equipment were "unable to prosecute more blatant offenders".

In large areas of England, casualty rates are rising, yet in Scotland and Wales, which have had bigger increases in car ownership than most English regions, accident rates have fallen. Casualties in Scotland were down by 17 per cent.

Cheshire has suffered the biggest increase, 24.3 per cent, between 1990 and 1997. Norfolk and the Grampian region led the way in improving records, cutting the number of injuries by 26 per cent.



Crawford: refused to discuss pamphlet

## Union chief may face picket line

By ROLAND WATSON  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN EDMONDS, leader of the GMB union, faces the prospect of a strike among his own staff after firing an official who was trying to instigate an inquiry into the union's pension fund.

A simmering row at the GMB's offices is likely to present Mr Edmonds with the prospect of having to cross a picket line if he wants to reach his office.

The dispute arose after Mr Edmonds sacked the union's head of communications, Tom Condon, earlier this month.

Mr Condon, a former political and industrial journalist, was pressing for an internal investigation into why £2.5 million was taken from the GMB's pension fund in the early 1990s.

Although the money has since been returned, officials believe it may have left about 1,400 pensioners receiving less in retirement than they could have done had the fund been left untouched.

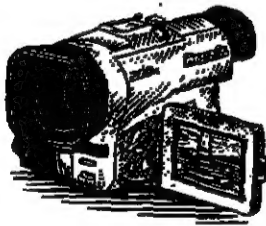
The money was used as part of a bridging loan to the union after a property deal went disastrously wrong. Although Mr Edmonds said the deal, involving a move of headquarters, would be self-financing,

it left the union, which has 700,000 members, £6 million out of pocket.

The dispute has left many GMB officials uneasy, and could lead to an external inquiry into the finances of Britain's fourth-biggest union. It is understood that both the Law Society and the Occupational Pension Regulatory Authority are aware of the details and are preparing to launch separate investigations.

Members of the six-strong chapel of the National Union of Journalists at the GMB's offices in Wimbledon are to vote this month on whether to take industrial action over Mr Condon's dismissal.

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THE TIMES MONDAY JANUARY 4 1999

# 'It is a miserable place to die, I am sorry'



The ticket that would have taken Peter Rowe home

**But I had no choice, says Yemeni colonel as he takes Daniel McGrory to scene of tourists' bloody deaths**

A RETURN rail ticket from Gatwick, trodden into the dust of a barren plateau, left a poignant reminder yesterday of the holidaymakers whose trip to Yemen ended in deadly confrontation.

A bloodstained handkerchief beneath a small mound of black rocks provided more grim evidence that four of the tourists would not be returning to their loved ones.

Yemeni army officers yesterday took *The Times* to the bleak volcanic crater where they fought a gunbattle with the Islamic kidnappers who held the 16 Western holidaymakers.

The colonel who led the much-criticised rescue mission shook his head and said: "This is a miserable place to die and I am sorry for the innocent blood, but I had no other choice."

Gazing around where the travellers were forced to stand, their hands raised, as human shields, it is obvious there was nowhere for them to hide when the gunfire began.

Colonel Mohammed Salah Ali pointed with his Kalashnikov rifle to the pile of rocks he built beside a desert track where the first hostage, Margaret Whitehouse, was killed trying to help Andrew Thirsk, who was also to die in the chaotic shooting.

The only shelter, 30 metres away, was a low ridge of boulders which the kidnappers covered behind as they forced these two to stand for half an hour with three other frightened hostages in full view of the approaching soldiers. On this parched stretch of open ground the helpless victims could be seen from more than two kilometres away.

Picking your way between the jagged rocks, what is puzzling is how more hostages were not killed in the crossfire. Even more curious is how up to 13 kidnappers escaped across such exposed land.

Colonel Ali does not answer that, preferring to stick to the official Yemeni account that his men did not attack until the kidnappers began executing their hostages. This is at odds with the survivors' recollections. They say that Mr Thirsk, the first to be hit, was caught in an exchange of automatic fire.

It is impossible to tell from

the few spent bullet cases in the dirt who fired first as both sides use the same weapons. The bloodstained handkerchief that Mrs Whitehouse, a 53-year-old Hampshire teacher, used to staunch the fatal wounds of the 25-year-old Australian accountant is blackened by the scorching sun. Ten feet away a slab of mouldering dates which the hostages were given for their last meal are wrapped in polythene and half-buried by another cairn that shows where one of the kidnappers, an Egyptian teacher who trained the Islamic terrorists, was shot dead.

The colonel moves half a mile across the Al-Ghanfar plateau to where his armed escort tramped over the rail ticket that Peter Rowe would have used to get home to Durham today. A patch of dried blood from where the 60-year-old university lecturer received multiple gunshot wounds is matted with sand.

His widow, Claire Marston, 43, who was wounded, was yesterday well enough to fly home with the American hostage, Margaret Thomson. Flanked by soldiers as she left,



Claire Marston leaving hospital in Yemen yesterday for the flight home to Britain. She was flanked by armed guards



Cairns mark where tourists and kidnappers fell. On the left is where Margaret Whitehouse and Andrew Thirsk were hit. A Yemeni soldier crouches where an Egyptian terrorist was hit

Ms Marston, whose right arm was encased in plaster and who had her left hand bandaged, was still too distressed to talk about her escape from the plateau near the town of Mudiyah.

A Foreign Office spokesman said that Ms Marston would be transferred to hospital on arriving in London. It was not known whether Ms Thompson would remain in Britain. The only other evidence that

the four Scotland Yard detectives in Yemen will find in the clearing which the kidnappers used as makeshift camp are a handful of spent bullets discarded beside a box of Chanel aftershave, a broken whisky bottle and a half-eaten loaf of bread in a yellow carrier bag.

A black trail of dried blood shows where the youngest of the tourists, Ruth Williamson, was executed by an Al-Jihad gunman as she tried to balance on a 2ft-high sand bar from where she too must have been clearly visible to her rescuers.

Colonel Ali refuses to say why he did not order his men to stop firing when he saw the 16 terrified tourists trapped on open ground. Instead, he walks back towards the two 18in high black stone cairns where the kidnapper leader, Abu Hassan, was arrested. "Hassan told me he was only sorry that he did not have a chance to kill all the hostages," the colonel said.

To reach Al Ghanfar plateau yesterday, Colonel Ali, who is deputy chief of police for Abyan province, provided an armed escort of 25 men, including eight in a truck that had a Russian anti-aircraft gun bolted on the back. On the desert highway his high-speed convoy, escorted by police cars with sirens wailing, passed groups of tourists who were still driving the starkly picturesque route without any security escort.

The tourist convoys did not notice the dirt track leading six miles to the crater where the four hostages died 24 hours after being kidnapped.

## Yard seeks to question terrorist

**Mystery over the kidnap leader whose gang had no hiding place**

SCOTLAND YARD and the ten-strong FBI team in Yemen are seeking to interview the kidnap leader, Abu Hassan, about his links with other terrorist groups in the region.

The bearded Hassan, who the authorities say is 28 but who looks much older, is now manacled in prison in Zinjibar, 115 miles from the scene of the shooting. The authorities would prefer Hassan convicted and executed by the end of this week, although western investigators have told the Yemeni government that they need to discover if his Al-Jihad group are funded and trained by the Saudi billionaire, Osama bin Laden.

Hassan is known to have fought with the Mujahidin against the Russians in Afghanistan, where bin Laden has his base, and where the Saudi master-terrorist

planned the bomb attacks on two US embassies in East Africa last year. Local trackers who know this Al-Ghanfa plain point to how Hassan clearly had little idea how to hide or protect his hostages while he was bartering for the release of Al-Jihad comrades arrested in Yemen before Christmas.

From the start of this kidnap, Hassan and at least 18 other gunmen were clearly seen by tribesmen and local traders as they drove their hostages in a convoy of stolen vehicles to a partially shaded desert clearing used by camel and goat herders. Locals traders who sold them bottled water and freshly baked bread on the day of the kidnap say that they know most of the gang, including Saad Muhammad Ali Araf and Ahmed Muhammad Ali Araf, two brothers arrested with

Hassan, as well as the identities of the three kidnappers who were killed. Hathami Aishal, a tribal leader who was used as go-between with the Al-Jihad group, points to the empty biscuit packets and soft drinks he brought for the hostages two hours before the shoot-out. The elderly negotiator said: "Hassan only wanted six of his people freed from prison. He made no threats to the hostages but they would not let me see them. They told me that if I came back, I would be killed."

He knew one of the terrorists who was shot, Ali al Khadar el Haj, 25, worked as a taxi driver in the nearest village, Kokab, 1½ miles away. "Hassan was not some big terrorist. Where did he expect to hide?" he asked, pointing to how the army had surrounded the entire area within hours of the kidnap.

## Ernie Wise 'stable' after heart attacks

By MICHAEL HARVEY

THE comedian Ernie Wise was recovering in an American hospital last night after suffering two heart attacks in a week.

The 73-year-old star, one half of the legendary duo Morecambe and Wise, spent three weeks in intensive care. But he is now well enough to be moved to a private room.

He fell ill at his winter holiday home in Florida just days after celebrating his birthday on November 27.

His wife Doreen, 68, said: "I didn't think he was going to make Christmas but, bless him, he did. He's extremely weak, in what you'd describe as a fragile condition, but he's holding his own - the doctors say he's stable."

The entertainer's health has been a concern for some time. He has suffered a series of strokes over the last five years which have left him in extremely frail health.

The funnyman with the famously short, fat, happy legs was on the receiving end of the comic genius of Eric Morecambe, who died of a heart attack in 1984, for four decades. Their Christmas specials became television classics and their 1977 show attracted 27.5 million viewers, the biggest audience for a programme shown on a single channel. In

## £2m book deal puts Hornby top of league

By MICHAEL HARVEY

NICK HORNBY, author of the football fan's memoir *Fever Pitch*, is switching publishers in a transfer worth nearly £2 million. The two-novel deal for Penguin puts the 41-year-old former teacher at the top of the superleague of British literary authors.

Penguin won against competition from Fourth Estate, Random House and Macmillan Picador. The first new novel, yet to be written, is to be published next year.

Hornby has become a phenomenon, with three international bestsellers from his first three books, *Fever Pitch*, *High Fidelity* and *About a Boy*. *Fever Pitch* was turned into a film starring Colin Firth and last year he sold the film rights for *About a Boy* for £1.5 million. *High Fidelity* is being adapted by Disney's Touchstone Films.

Penguin is confident that the £2 million will be money well spent. Helen Fraser, managing director, said: "Advances are related to what people's books actually sell. We are very pleased at this deal."

Hornby is leaving Gollancz just as it is being taken over by the Orion Group, which owns Weidenfeld & Nicolson. He had a particularly strong working relationship with his Gollancz editor, Liz Knights,

who died in 1997. He said: "I stayed because of her and wanted *About a Boy* to be published by Gollancz even though she was no longer there. But now it is also being taken over it was time for a change."

The deal is thought to be the largest of its kind for a literary author. In contrast, Jeffrey Archer is said to have secured a £14 million advance for three books. Penguin has also secured another bestselling writer, Sue Townsend, who joins after 17 years with Methuen. Her new book in the Adrian Mole series, *The Cappuccino Years*, sees her hero now aged 30 and three quarters.

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### JANUARY 1999

MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN
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# Pupils given anti-meningitis pills

**'Kissing bug' claims lives of two children from the same school, Michael Hornsby writes**

EVERY pupil at a school where two teenagers died of meningitis after attending a Christmas party were called in yesterday to receive antibiotics to prevent the disease spreading.

All 1,750 children at Wash Comprehensive near Rotherham in South Yorkshire, William Hague's old school, were given the antibiotics in tablet form.

The precaution was taken after the deaths on New Year's Eve of 14-year-old Claire Wilkinson and 15-year-old Adam Rawson, both pupils at the school. The children will receive injections today. A helpline for worried parents has been set up by the local health authority.

The two teenagers who died, Claire Wilkinson and Adam Rawson, were friends and it is thought the pair may have passed the illness to one another after kissing at a Christmas party, the school itself is not thought to have been the source of the outbreak.

The tragedy was made worse because Claire had to be turned away from hospitals in



Pupils wait outside Wash comprehensive school yesterday to be given antibiotic pills after two classmates — Claire Wilkinson and Adam Rawson, below — died of meningitis

South Yorkshire because there were no beds available in intensive care units.

She was eventually taken to a hospital in Nottingham, 40 miles away, after a seven-hour wait at the Rotherham General Hospital. Claire's mother, Caroline Wilkinson, said: "I am absolutely devastated. I cannot believe that in a civilised country there were no beds available for a seriously ill child."

Explaining the decision to move Claire, a hospital spokesman said: "She was taken to Rotherham General, but during her treatment the decision will have been made that the patient needed specialist paediatric intensive care unit facilities. Not everyone suffering from meningitis would need that sort of treatment."

"What happened then was

that Sheffield was approached and that was found to be full. Nottingham was then approached and they did have a bed available."

A spokesman for the National Meningitis Trust warned that at this time of year the disease is at its most prevalent because of increased social interaction. Last year there were 2,600 cases of the disease, resulting in 270 deaths.

"We do see a big increase in cases during November and

December and so it is important that people are aware of the symptoms and seek medical attention immediately."

"People are more at risk at this time of year because they tend to be in closer contact with others. One in ten of us carries the bacteria which cause the illness, but it is important to remember that meningitis is still a very difficult disease to catch."

"We certainly don't want to suggest people avoid social in-

teraction at Christmas. It is after all how people build up resistance to illnesses."

"Teenagers are particularly at risk because they do tend to have increased social contact, but I would stress that it is a difficult bacterium to pass on and it is rare that more than one pupil at a school would get the disease."

Health officials have set up the following helpline for parents: 0345 538118, 0145 4413344 and 01709 302070.



## Children's centre takes more inmates

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY

RESTRICTIONS on the number of inmates in Britain's first secure institution for children, which saw serious violence last summer, are to be relaxed. From today there will be 30 young offenders at the Medway Secure Training Centre at Rochester, Kent — up from the limit of 25 set by the Home Office in November. That still leaves it ten below capacity.

The Social Services Inspectorate is expected to be severely critical of the management in a report to be published shortly. In July, there was rioting at the privately run centre for persistent young offenders aged 13 to 15, three months after it opened. Inmates armed with metal poles and socks filled with snooker balls ransacked parts of the centre. Police in riot gear had to be called.

Rebound, the Group 4 subsidiary which runs the centre, said: "We would like to go back up to 40 places, but the Home Office is satisfied that progress is being made."

## TV docusoap stars bite back

BY ALEX O'CONNELL

A GROUP of docusoap stars are accusing television producers of wrecking their lives after experiencing instant fame.

Keith Cooper, who was director of corporate affairs at the Royal Opera House when he featured in *The House*, claims to have been damaged by the way he was portrayed in the 1996 BBC2 fly-on-the-wall documentary.

He said: "The camera got me 180 degrees unfairly, abominably, totally wrong. My professional credibility was affected by what people saw on television."

David Smith, the chef from *Hotel*, made famous by his swearing at the Adelphi in Liverpool, said: "They stitched me up. They made a lot of money out of *Fawlty Towers*, so they thought they'd get a real live version. So they picked us."

Neil Howarth, an aspiring pop star who featured in *Made In Manchester*, believes that his television performance stalled his career. He said: "It opened a lot of doors but it slammed shut a hell of a lot of others."

Mr Howarth claims that he told by the BBC directors that he was going to be portrayed in a bad light for the first two episodes but that he would be redeemed in the third. He

said: "When it came to the third episode there were legal problems, so they shelved it."

The disclosures come in a BBC documentary about fly-on-the-wall series, *Life After Docu Soap*, which will begin on Sunday at 10.30pm.

In spite of criticisms, the docusoap genre has become a fast-track route to success. Through her appearance in *Lakesiders*, Emma Bondry, 24, has signed a deal with EMI and released an album.

Before her came Jane McDonald, the cabaret singer from *The Cruise*, who performed at the Royal Variety Performance this year and has made a chart-topping album.

Max Clifford, the PR agent, said: "I am sure lots of people, particularly the extroverts, will be doing everything they can to get themselves involved in any documentary."

Trude Mostoe, star of *Vers in Practice*, said: "If you get the wrong producer, they can cut and paste as they like."

Jeremy Spake, from *Airport*, the outspoken groundsman with *Acropolis*, is happy with his participation. He said: "I did a book, there are always some spin-offs." He is now making a programme about his grandmother, who was an interpreter for Stalin.



David Smith, left, from *Hotel*, and Keith Cooper, of *The House*, feel let down by the television producers involved

## Secret of Carey's man in the pew

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

The Archbishop of Canterbury launches a campaign today to make churches more welcoming, based on his son Andrew's experiences in a new parish.

Dr George Carey condemns "unwelcoming, cold, drab and dreary" churches in an introduction to the book *New Era, New Church* which describes the unhappy experiences of "Andrew and Helen", a mid-30s couple moving into a new area. It omits to mention that Andrew is Dr Carey's son, a journalist who helped to produce the book.

The newcomers first try their nearest church. "They were greeted at the door by an 'unsmiling steward,'" says the book. "No one sat near An-

drew and Helen. No one said a word to them. As they left at the end of the service, the vicar — locked in a conversation with a regular member of the congregation — rather limply shook their hands and thanked them for coming."

Their verdict: "At least we had the benefit of anonymity!" The next Sunday the couple try a church half 100 yards along. This time the welcome is too enthusiastic and stifling. "As they left, they had to walk the gamut of smiling faces, encounter a barrage of questions, a plethora of outstretched hands — and even hugs!"

□ *New Era, New Church* by Steve Chalke with Sue Radford (Harper Collins, £8.99)

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## THE EURO GOES TO MARKET

## Bankers flirt with Bonn masters

A SERIES of articles in this newspaper has been depicting the tension between the city and the country, between north and south. In most cases the euro has not so much created these divisions as highlighted them, thrown them into relief.

One would expect even Germany's consensus-based political system — with its in-built aversion to conflict — to register these problems. So far, however, Germany's ruling caste sees the euro only as a form of necessary modernisation and a way of muzzling conflict with suspicious neighbours.

There seems to be no political capital to be made out of questioning the euro. Gerhard Schröder, the Chancellor, regarded the euro a year ago as "a sickly, premature

Roger Boyes says the austere Bundesbank is now forced to play political games

child" and favoured delay rather than a softening of the entry criteria for economic and monetary union (EMU). Now he regards the euro as a magnificent opportunity for Germany.

Oskar Lafontaine, the Finance Minister, also disliked the Maastricht treaty and managed to straddle the contradictions — rejecting the EMU entry criteria but supporting the euro. Even public opinion has swung the way of the euro, with a narrow majority in favour of it for the first time.

Helmut Kohl's cynical assumption — that the Germans would not love but would accept the euro once

politicians made it seem unavoidable — was broadly correct. The euro played little or no role in the decisive phase of the German elections.

Perhaps the most damaging long-term aspect of the Maastricht process was this contempt for public opinion. It has sapped the trust of Germans in their political class. The rapid end to Herr Schröder's governing honeymoon is a symptom of this.

The euro may have been neutered but it would be wrong to assume that it will be out of the political frame in Germany permanently. The danger phase begins now in

the period between the technical introduction of the euro and the summer of 2002 when it replaces the mark in daily transactions. That will be the true turning point for Germans and it will come only three months before the next general election.

The euro will be the Christian Democrats' way of distancing themselves from Herr Kohl. Wolfgang Schäuble, the head of the party, was the co-author four years ago of a strategy paper calling for a "hard-core" Europe. Fast integrators could leave countries like Italy behind. The Italians, and indeed the British, were less than enthusiastic. Now Herr Schäuble — flanked by Edmund Stoiber, the Bavarian Prime Minister — can position the party as a defender of strict fiscal discipline within euroland. As the

Bundesbank loses power, so it is destined to become more politicised. Rarely in its modern history have so many members of the bank's directorate so openly flirted with the Government.

The Bundesbank was always run by party political motives but they laid aside their ideological baggage to serve the bank's crusade against inflation. Now the bank is very much part of the political game. On a different level the European Central Bank will also become part of the political fray in Germany. Germans who were assured that the Bank would be driven by inflation-hating robots will soon feel cheated. The bankers are destined to let down the Germans; they cannot deliver jobs, they cannot hide the country's industrial

inefficiency, cannot prevent painful transfer payments abroad to weaker members of the European Monetary Union.

The euro thus ushers in the politics of resentment. Herr Schröder — or rather his key thinker, Rüdiger Hübner — senses that this will be an emotional period, full of disappointment for those many Germans with pumped-up expectations. And so he intends to craft a new patriotism, a "well-being" as Herr Hübner calls it. A self-aware Germany, proud of its achievements, does not need to look to Europe for miracles.

In the breathing space between the virtual euro and the real in-your-pocket euro, Germany will seek to reposition itself within Europe. It will be a busy time, full of misunderstandings and unsettling for the neighbours.



Donnelly: "Quietly elated by weekend"

## Sterling effort pays off

A four-day diary of conversion: Nick Donnelly, EMU conversion director for Barclays Capital  
Thursday, Dec 31, 1998: Arrived at work 7am. Spent morning checking plans. 11am: Went to trading floor to see locking rates come. Next two hours spent explaining plans to representative of European finance ministry (unnamed) observing impact on London. 3pm: Returned to Canary Wharf control and communications centre to go

## DIARY

through final preparations. More than 250 timed milestones, set as monitor of progress, checked round clock by ten staff on shift with hourly reports given to senior executives.

6pm: Computers set to complete end-of-year accounts, ran through the night.

Friday, January 1, 1999: Computers began work at about 7am, crunching numbers to be checked by 250 people. Government and corporate bonds, equities and futures translated into euros. About 17 action plans used for different products. Home to central London flat by 8pm.

Saturday, January 2, 1999: 7am back in office. Traders began familiarising themselves with new numbers. Home 9pm.

Sunday, January 3, 1999: In early. More traders in but all gone by 3pm. Group conference at 7pm. Go home about 9pm. "quietly elated"

## Cautious City expects slow start to trade

By SUNIL STEINER

LONDON

LONDON'S financial markets were expected to get off to a slow start today as traders get to grips with the euro and the new currency begins to make an impact on world trade.

Systems and conversion staff at 600 banks and financial institutions have spent collectively more than 300,000 hours preparing for the big moment. It was the largest operation the City had ever launched.

Barclays Capital yesterday handed out 650 specially-made "stress balls" to each of its traders to help them through the first nerve-racking days of euro-dealing. "They have got small silicone globules inside and you can crunch them in your hand as a stress reliever," said Nick Donnelly, EMU conversion director at Barclays Capital. The balls are printed with support hotline numbers.

Trading in the euro could only begin after an intensive three-day preparation period in which billions of pounds worth of assets were converted

from the old European currencies into the euro.

An estimated 30,000 City staff forecast their New Year break to prepare banks for monetary union. Most banks said they were ready for a smooth first day's trading. A spokesman for NatWest said: "Tomorrow will be the acid test, but we believe everything will go swimmingly."

Peter Letley, managing director of business operations for HSBC investment bank, said yesterday: "Most people have now finished working and those that are still in are on schedule. We are not anticipating any problems when we begin trading tomorrow."

Once trading has settled to a comfortable hum, staff in the Square Mile, who missed out on New Year's Eve, will do their best to make up for it. "We are planning to have a party themed around the 11 countries of monetary union, with national food and drink from each," said a spokesman for Barclays Capital.

"I don't know that we'd



A "stress ball" printed with a monetary union helpline lies on a keyboard at Barclays Capital on the eve of the start of worldwide euro trading

want Finnish wine, but you could have flavoured vodkas from Finland, tapas from Spain, Belgian beer, that sort of thing. We were going to make staff dress in lederhosen, but we thought that

would be unfair". Barclays Capital said work done over the new year would be taken into account in bonus appraisals, while other banks were expected to make lump sum payments. Merrill Lynch said its

staff "would not go unrewarded", while Dresdner Kleinwort Benson confirmed it would be making "special payments to its staff".

"We will be having some sort of celebratory party," said

a spokesman for Dresdner. "We don't know what the details are yet because we thought it was tempting fate."

One insider warned that this year's bonuses would push up sums demanded for

working over the millennium. "I think we will have to double whatever we pay them this year when it comes to next year," he said.

Trading begins, page 48

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THE TIMES MONDAY JANUARY 4 1999

EUROLAND DAY ONE

# Frankfurt's euro party loses fizz

**Fight by city to outflank London gets little support from Germany's leaders, Roger Boyes reports**

RARELY has there been a more extravagantly prepared champagne breakfast: 2,000 bankers in Frankfurt worked through the night to ensure a smooth launch for the euro which is to be celebrated today with a flying visit by Yves Thibault de Silguy, the European Commissioner for finance, who will drink glasses with Wim Duisenberg, the European Central Bank chief.

This is Frankfurt's most serious attempt to displace London as the financial centre of Europe. The introduction of the euro will, Germans believe, give Frankfurt a significance far greater than is justified by the present small trading volumes. Petra Roth, the Mayor of Frankfurt, has been travelling around the world pushing the merits of her city with the slogan: "We may not be large, but we are great."

Certainly Frankfurt has an unusual accumulation of bank-

ing talent: all the top German commercial banks have their headquarters in the city, as does the Bundesbank and, now, the European Central Bank. But to be "great" — or even just a credible rival to the City of London — it will need successfully to steer the euro launch from the first trading day until the euro replaces the mark and other currencies as a daily means of transaction.

"We expect some glitches but nothing too serious," said a heavily pressed banker who had been working flat out since New Year's Eve.

There was doubt yesterday as to whether Frankfurt and indeed the euro has gained the full-powered political backing

that might have been expected. Oskar Lafontaine, the German Finance Minister, chose to holiday in the Caribbean with his family rather than attend the New Year's Day launch by the European finance ministers.

"I cannot imagine a worse beginning for the German European presidency," Wolfgang Schäuble, the Christian Democratic Opposition's leader, said. Frau Roth was also on holiday.

True, 10,000 Germans overcame their hangovers on New Year's Day to gather in the park outside the European Central Bank and form a human symbol of the euro. Shops on Saturday were keen

to give away chocolate euros — sending the wrong political signal by promptly melting in the hand — but it was difficult to avoid the impression that the German political class is playing down the dawn of the euro era.

The real damper on the euro launch came in a leak to the Sunday German press: that Herr Lafontaine is planning a 1 per cent or 2 per cent increase in VAT, despite government promises not to raise taxes in this legislative period. Herr Lafontaine's spokesman denied the plans, but it is clear that Germany hopes to benefit from broader European tax harmonisation to increase VAT. Germany is now among the lowest in Europe, with VAT at 16 per cent and if it were, for example, to reach the British level of 17.5 per cent almost £10 billion of extra revenue would flow into the federal budget.



Rebecca Handscombe, 11, at a euro display in London yesterday with single-currency trading due to start today

## French language purists flinch at English accent

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

### WORD PLAY

EUROLAND may be only newborn, but French-language purists are complaining already that the word used to describe the new single European currency region sounds too English and should be replaced with one more pleasing to French ears. Even though "euroland" is already common linguistic currency throughout Europe, some French academics have suggested that it should be replaced by eurolande, or even in terre euro.

Alain Rey, a prominent language expert, told Le Figaro that the Académie Française, the arbiter of the language, would "probably propose that this hybrid term be Frenchified by adding a final 'e'."

The only problem with that solution is that lande does not mean land in French. The dictionary definition is "vegetation in a temperate zone, principally composed of heather, broom and gorse, generally resulting in the degradation of the forest". In other words, a scrub-filled wasteland of little use to man or beast. "One can already hear the Eurosceptics pointing out that the name eurolande is only too appropriate," Le Figaro said.

The term euroland may sit

easily with speakers of English, German, Dutch, Swedish and Danish, but defenders of French say that the Romance languages have not been taken into account in the designation of the new economic area. "Once again, it will be English which drowns-out everything else, without French, Spanish or Italian having a word to say on the matter," M Rey said.

The eccentric French novelist, Jean Raspail, who recently invaded a British-owned rock in the Channel in the name of a non-existent South American king, goes still further, saying that the failure to develop an alternative to the term euroland is another sign of French defeatism in the face of Anglo-Saxon cultural colonisation.

"French people will not lift a little finger to defend their language," M Raspail said. "They are making fools of themselves: they no longer have an ear for their own language. Just adding an 'e' to euroland to make it sound vaguely French was a poor consolation, he added.

The Academy's most outspoken defender of the language, Jean Dusourd, said: "With or without an 'e', it is still a vile word."

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# Scots eager to test their new-found power

By MAGNUS LINKLATER

IN FOUR months' time Scots will go to the polls to change the way the country has been run for 322 years. They still cannot quite believe it is happening. Nor do they know what will come of it all. But, whatever doubts there may be elsewhere — particularly in England — about the wisdom of this great constitutional adventure, the Scots themselves show no sign of wavering. If anything, enthusiasm for change has hardened.

Every poll reveals that they have, over the past few months of intensive political activity, developed a strong sense of their own Scottishness, a conviction that the parliament they are about to elect will deliver a new beginning, and a belief that it will be better than the one that has run their affairs from further south. For some, those heightened expectations are a dan-

gerous commodity. The remit of a Scottish parliament may be wide, its delegated powers and its ability to legislate far-reaching, but it will move within the same budgetary constraints as it ever did. There will be no extra funding, no loosening of the Treasury purse strings. The tax-raising powers it has been given are limited and will not be used at least within the first term of the parliament.

How then will the expectations be met? One theory runs that the disappointment factor will play straight into the hands of the Scottish Nationalists. Alex Salmond, their leader, has pledged his party to back the new parliament, to ensure that it is a success and that it delivers sensible policies. But right now he can afford to do so, secure in the knowledge that, by his calculation, he cannot lose: if the parliament be-

SCOTLAND  
1999  
YEAR OF DESTINY

gins to fall victim to recrimination and schism, then he will be in a position to say: how much better things could be done in an independent Scotland. If, on the other hand, it is a modest success, he can argue: how much better it would be in an independent Scotland.

This is Labour's nightmare: a narrow election victory under the additional-member voting system dictates an alliance, probably with the Liberal Democrats. An apparently supportive SNP nevertheless conducts a steadily undermining opposi-

Times writers test the mood of a country that is preparing for its first parliament in 300 years

tion strategy which, in four years' time, presents a strong alternative to the electorate. With events drifting away from the Government in Westminster, and factionalism at home, the nation would be heading straight into the uncharted and choppy waters of separatism.

That, however, is just a little too simplistic. It presumes a passive electorate, a self-assured nationalist party, and a Labour Party frozen like a rabbit confronted by the SNP stall. There are still four months to go in what will be a fascinating and un-

predictable election campaign. The Nationalists are still perceived very much as a one-man band: they will have to convince voters that they have strength in depth if they are to win genuine support. Their economic policies, still sketchy, will be tested to destruction by the opposition parties. And meanwhile Labour is climbing back in the polls. Analysis of the most recent surveys suggest that when it comes to the second choice on the ballot paper — voters will be required to opt for parties as well as for individual candidates — Labour is doing far better than the SNP.

This suggests that the Scottish electorate is not yet prepared to abandon its traditional reliance on Labour as its preferred choice to govern the country. It has been on trial over the past few months but it has not yet been pronounced guilty. On this analysis it will come home as the majority party. What happens then, will be

critical. Four years is not a long time in which to ensure the smooth running of a new parliament, deliver enough to convince Scots that it has been worth voting for but not so much that it arouses the hostility of Westminster. A steady hand on the tiller will be a prime requirement. In Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, Labour seems to have just that. There have been signs recently that Mr Dewar, far from weakening under the Nationalist assault, has discovered a new confidence. He thinks that he is going to do well, he believes that he can handle the worst the SNP can throw at him. Between the punchy demagogue Salmond and the cautious ascetic Dewar, the fate of Scotland and the constitutional future of the UK will be determined.

Tim Hames, page 20

## Cue for a fresh cast of political hopefuls

THE NEW FACES

By JASON ALLARDYCE, Scottish Political Reporter

DONNIE'S the dark, rugged pop star who's put his rock'n'roll lifestyle behind him. Tasmia's the ambitious young actress already known to millions but seeking a new role. Duncan is a Harvard man tipped to one day lead his country, while Tavish sometimes pretends to be a Viking.

They could be the cast of a daytime soap opera and will certainly be making lots of television appearances in the near future. They are unlikely to generate as much viewer interest as Vera Duckworth or Grant Mitchell, however — unless the young stars of Scotland's new parliament become embroiled in sex scandals, skulduggery or corruption. (Then again, this is politics.)

The creation of the Holyrood administration brings with it 129 vacancies in Scottish party politics and an opportunity for a generation of young hopefuls. Among them is Tasmia Ahmed-Sheikh, 27, above, a second-generation Asian Scots actress who wants to abandon Bollywood for Hollywood.

She became active in the Scottish Tories after last year's general election but left the party without a single MP in Scotland. Her latest drama role, shot in Scotland, will be seen by up to three billion

Asian viewers around the world. She is also a qualified lawyer and a mother, and speaks five languages. An admirer of Baroness Thatcher, she has politics in her blood. Her father, Mo Rizvi, was the first Asian to become a regional councillor in Scotland, winning a seat in the Lothians in 1986.

"I was spat at while I campaigned for my father because we were Tories. But that is par for the course," she said. "Conservatism and Islam have very similar values of enterprise, where you get up and do what you can for yourself and respect your elders and family."

Ms Ahmed-Sheikh stands little chance of preventing the Scottish National Party taking the Glasgow Govan seat for which she is standing but she should go through thanks to proportional representation.

Donnie Munro, below, is known to hundreds of thousands of fans as the former frontman of Runrig, the Gaelic rock band. Now the man who has four gold albums to his name is singing to Labour's tune and is confi-

dent he will not have to settle for silver in his battle to win the Highland constituency of Ross, Cromarty and Skye.

A polished performer, the 44-year-old with friends in high places could become the first Scottish parliament minister for the Highlands, for the Gaelic language or both. He returned to his native Skye last year to become development director at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, a college of further education that teaches in Gaelic.

Mr Munro is a passionate advocate not only for the Gaelic language but also for land reform to benefit crofting tenants. But while Mr Munro remains a youth icon for many, his age betrays the fact that Labour has struggled to bring as much young blood into the new parliament as rivals, in particular the SNP.

Perhaps the biggest name to watch is Duncan Hamilton, above, the 20-something tipped in some quarters to be the next SNP leader, and likened to the present incumbent, Alex Salmond, and to Tony Blair. Mr Hamilton, who

works for Mike Russell, SNP chief executive, has a first-class honours degree and won a scholarship to Harvard. He has been known to work until 4am at the SNP headquarters.

The sharply dressed 24-year-old son of the Manse, whose body language comes from the pulpit, is a member of what has become known as the nat pack. This is the band of young turks who have assumed positions of power around the SNP leader.

Tavish Scott, above, is also tipped to lead his party, the Scottish Liberal Democrats. The 33-year-old Shetlander, who is preparing to take part in the annual Viking fire festival this month, is close geographically and philosophically to his party leader, Jim Wallace, who represents Shetland and Orkney at Westminster.

Mr Scott, a farmer, married with two young children, was Mr Wallace's assistant while he was chief whip in 1989. He headed the 1992 election communications team before returning to Bressay to become a councillor and party transport spokesman. Mr Scott, who is contesting Shetland Holyrood, will fight for the home rule settlement to be altered to include devolution on issues such as abortion and euthanasia.



New year, new hope fireworks over Edinburgh Castle as Scots await the first foot in parliament

### THE ROAD TO DEVOLUTION

1928 National Party of Scotland formed to campaign for Scottish parliament. Later merges with Scottish Party to form Scottish National Party.

1945 Robert McIntyre becomes first SNP MP after Motherwell by-election, but loses seat weeks later at general election.

1947 Non-political Scottish Convention calls national assembly with 500 delegates. Labour and Conservatives support limited devolution in principle.

1967 Winnie Ewing wins Hamilton for SNP.

1972 Discovery of North Sea oil. Nationalists argue that Scotland could comfortably afford independence.

1974 Scotland elects 11 SNP MPs as party's Scots vote peaks at 30 per cent.

1978 MPs narrowly back Labour Bill for Scottish and Welsh devolution, subject to 40 per cent voting yes in a referendum.

1979 Scots vote yes but in insufficient numbers for 40 per cent requirement. Thatcherism defies what John Smith later calls "settled will" of Scottish people.

1987 Margaret Thatcher comfortably wins general election in England but loses 11 of 27 Scottish MPs as Scots voters reject right-wing programme and poll tax, initiated in Scotland.

1989 Convention of Scottish Labour and Liberal Democrat MPs and community groups, boycotted by SNP, begins work on blueprint for devolution.

1992 John Major wins general election. Home rule marches attract up to 5,000 people protesting that Government has no mandate to govern Scotland.

1995 Roseanna Cunningham captures "safe" Tory seat of Perth and Kinross for SNP. Convention launches proposals for parliament with tax-raising powers.

1996 Labour feels electorally vulnerable on tax and says another referendum must be held before a Labour government delivers Scottish parliament.

1997 Tories without single Scottish MP after general election. Devolution yes campaign unites Labour, Lib Dems and SNP. Overwhelming vote for Edinburgh parliament with tax powers.

1998 Scotland Act makes it to statute books, with elections to be held on May 6. SNP poll surge puts it only marginally behind Labour. Majority in some polls back independence.

## Shock waves from a cultural revolution

### ARTS SCENE

By GILLIAN HARRIS, Scotland Correspondent

THE ARTS renaissance that is flourishing in Scotland began long before the devolution referendum. During two general elections, as politicians squabbled about the benefits of home rule, writers, musicians and actors focused their energies on creating a new cultural identity.

Outsiders may equate the Scottish arts scene with the Edinburgh Festival. In truth, the theatres, art galleries and concert halls across Scotland have never been busier providing a showcase for a plethora of home-grown talent.

"I feel in some way that devolution and the political advances came about because of the arts revival," Barclay Price, the deputy director of the Scottish Arts Council, said. "The country was feeling self-confident when it voted for devolution and the healthy arts scene played a part in creating that feeling."

For several years the arts revival was conducted as if it was a Scottish secret. Writers including Irvine Welsh, James Kelman and A.L. Kennedy were eulogised and sold well at home but their books gathered dust on bookstore shelves elsewhere. It was not until Kelman won the 1994 Booker Prize with *How Late It Was, How Late* that readers outside Scotland took more notice of the new generation of Scottish authors. Now Scottish writing is considered trendy. London-based publishing houses are signing up names such as Al-

ice Thompson, Alan Warner and Duncan McLaren, all literary prize winners.

Film-makers waving the cultural banner for Scotland are also benefiting from being seen as hip. Before the 1995 success of *Trainspotting*, made by the same team behind the low-budget *Shallow Grave*, a handful of directors were making films in Scotland. Now Scottish Screen, which funds new projects, is inundated with requests from directors all hoping to be the new Danny Boyle.

That is good news for Scottish actors. Robert Carlyle, who starred in *Trainspotting* and *The Full Monty*, divides his time between projects abroad and work in Scotland, including the BBC drama series *Looking For Jo Jo*, which was based in Edinburgh. Peter Mullan won the Cannes Festival best-actor prize in May for *My Name Is Joe*, about a recovering Glaswegian alcoholic.

In music, the surge of cultural energy has spawned a new generation of bands, among them B12, Idlewild, Texas, the Supernaturals and Primal Scream. In classical music, James McMillan, a contemporary composer, has emerged as a major voice. Retrospectives of his work have been

performed at the Edinburgh Festival and in London while another Scot, Evelyn Glennie, has taken his percussion concerto *Veni, Veni Emmanuel* on a world tour.

The defining characteristic of the new wave of artists is that they have a fresh outlook with no desire to cling to the kitsch world of tartan and heather. Ewan McGregor, *de facto* leader of the new arts pack, wears a kilt but would never be persuaded to appear on a Hogmanay show alongside White Heather Club singers. Sheila Murray, a Glasgow-based member of the British Council and Scotland's international arts officer, said: "Scotland has always been vibrant and looking to the international market. Devolution has not caused the upsurge, but it will probably fuel confidence especially if the parliament has the foresight to use the arts as Scotland's calling card abroad. The arts community is very vocal. It will not give politicians an easy ride if they are not an integral part of the new order."



Idlewild: part of a new generation of pop bands

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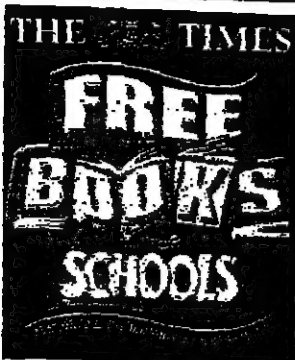
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# Free books: read all about it

**The Times launches Britain's biggest book bonanza, aimed at making a wide range of literature available to young readers**



The Free Books for Schools scheme, which begins in earnest today, is set to become the largest ever giveaway of reading materials for British classrooms. Nearly 26,000 schools, with five million pupils, have registered to collect tokens, the first of which appears on page 24 of *The Times* today, to save towards the range of titles on offer. The 150 books available are drawn from all areas of the school curriculum, from infant readers through to A-level students. Early primary titles include several Judith Kerr books, such as *Mog in the Hat* and *The Tiger Who Came to Tea*, as well as the ever popular *Fox in Socks* by Dr Seuss. Teenage books include *My Left Foot* by Christy Brown, *Dubliners* by James Joyce and *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley. The list of books was compiled by the educational publishers Cliff Moon and Michael Jones.

David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, has endorsed the scheme, which coincides with the Government's own National Year of Reading. He said: "We are committed to raising standards of literacy and we are asking the nation to join this campaign." Well over one billion tokens will appear in all, on packets of Walker's Crisps, Walker's Lites, Quavers, Monster Munch, French Fries, Doritos and Walker's Cheetos, as well as in other News International newspapers until the end of March. Schools can register for the scheme until February 28 by calling the Free Books for Schools helpline on 0845 6040312.

## Opening windows to the outer world

By GEORGE PENDLE

SOME of Britain's leading authors are backing the country's largest books giveaway to promote children's reading.

The Booker Prize winners Ben Okri and A.S. Byatt are among the literary figures endorsed by the Free Books for Schools scheme in *The Times*. Beryl Bainbridge, whose many novels include *An Awful Year*, *Big Adventure* and this year's much-praised *Master Georgie*, said she hoped the scheme would help children to "turn off the box and open a book".

The author, who regularly reads to her grandchildren Inigo, 5, Esme, 4, and Florence, 1, added: "Reading at schools is terribly important. Books are desperately needed everywhere and this scheme can only help."

Fay Weldon, the novelist and screenwriter, described Free Books for Schools as "quite brilliant". She added: "It's really good that children should read and that lack of funds should not prevent them from doing so. Reading is quite extraordinarily important — it's all I did as a child."

"TV tends to stultify the imagination because it has none of the paradoxes or complexity that books contain that allow the imagination to grow. That is why reading is so necessary for children."

Okri, whose novel *The Famished Road* won the Booker Prize, said the books giveaway was "positively important". He added: "Reading has to be put back to the top of the agenda."

"It should not just be school work which people are forced to read, it should once again be seen as life-enhancing, glamorous, sexy."

Films, videos, CD-Roms just don't compete — they can't compete with the infinite variety of reading. It cannot be overstressed.

Peter Ackroyd, the acclaimed biographer and novelist, was another to support the scheme. "For me reading was a lifetime as a child. From my earliest years I became entranced with books as they opened up other realities and possibilities to me."

Wendy Cope, the poet, was a primary school teacher. She backed the scheme, saying: "I know the importance of reading both at school and at home. Poetry has always

helped children to learn to read and children's poetry in particular has flourished in the last 30 years."

Lord Bragg, the television presenter and author, said: "I support the project wholeheartedly. Reading leads you into hundreds of worlds — worlds of facts, of religion, of adventure — print takes you anywhere."

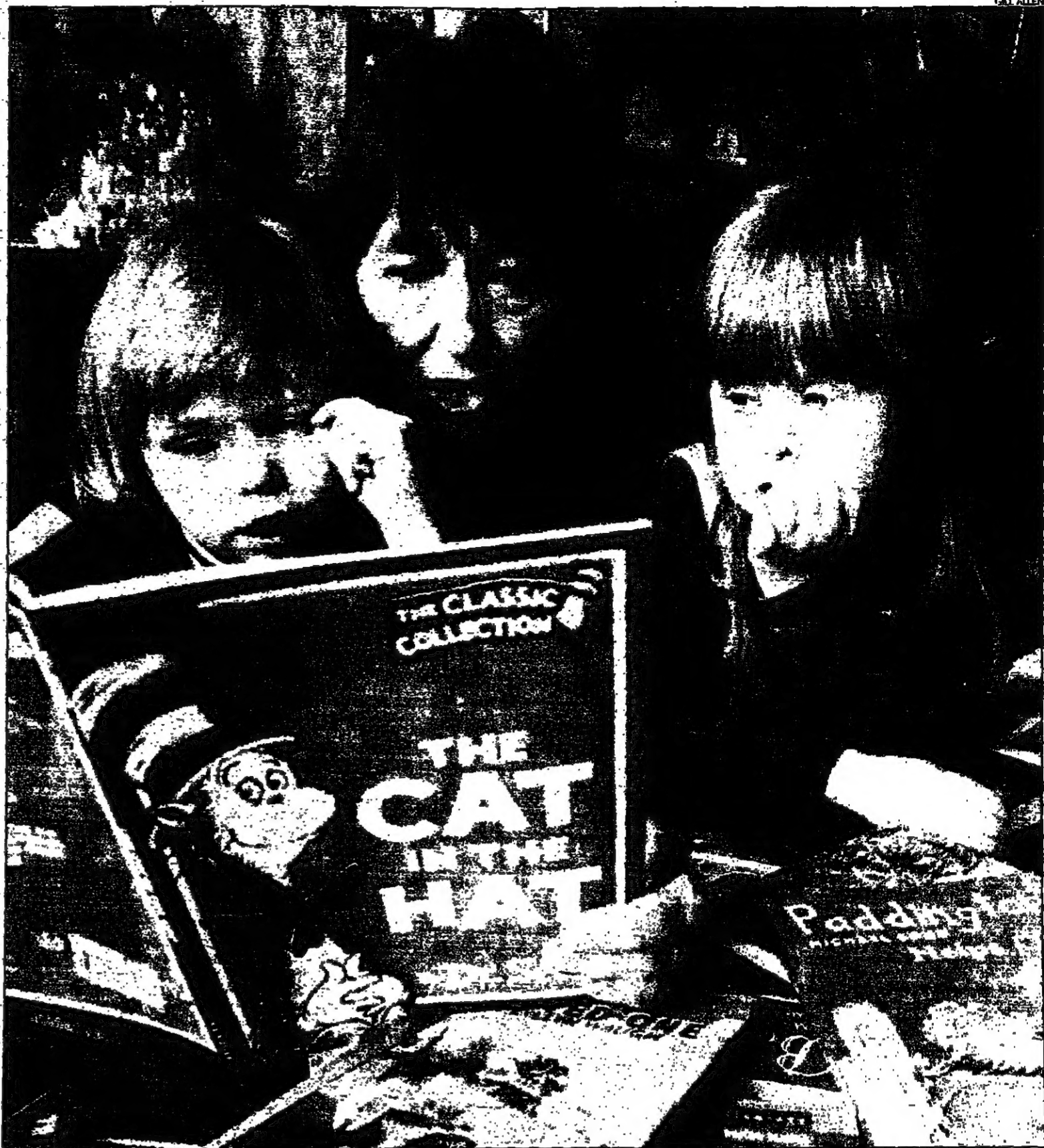
Andrew Motion, the poet and biographer, believes *The Times* is doing "a wonderful thing". He added: "It is extremely important and I hope that it all takes root."

"Good books are not only entire self-sufficient rooms, but also windows into the outer world."

Byatt, another Booker prize-winner and author of numerous children's stories, described Free Books for Schools as "an incredibly important thing."

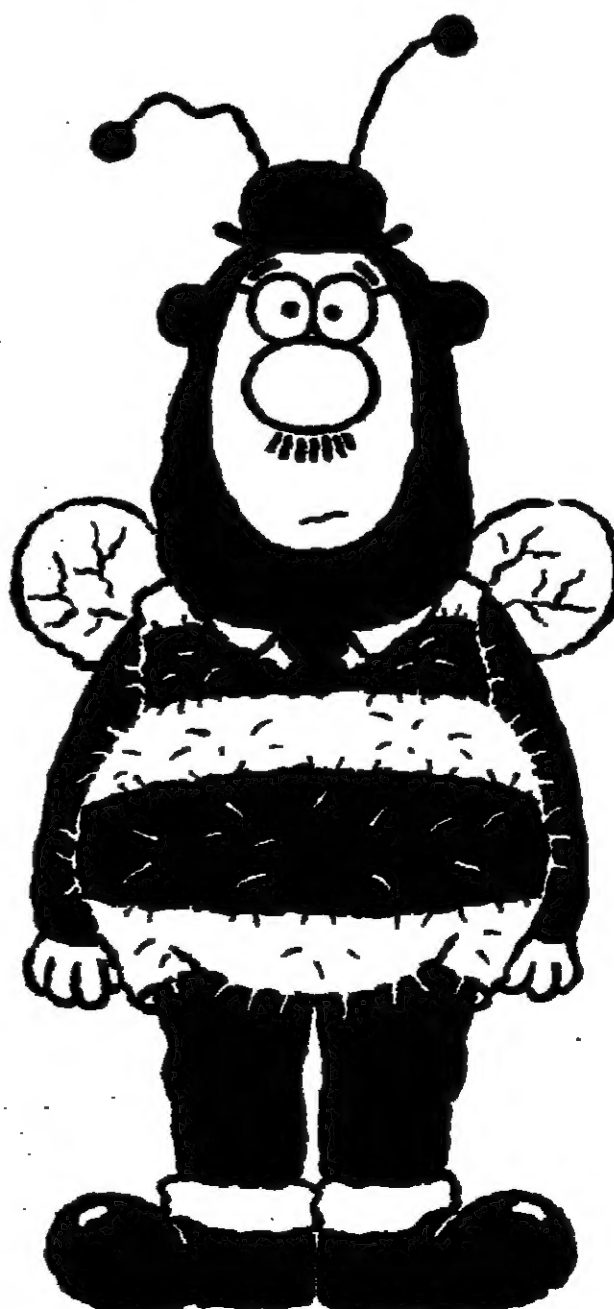
She added: "Modern education seems to put the emphasis on teamwork and group studies but I think that a lot of children also need solitude and private experience."

"I've been to schools which have almost no books, or where children work from photocopies of chapters of books and



The author Beryl Bainbridge encourages her grandchildren Esme, 4, and Inigo, 5, to discover the joy of books rather than simply "turning on the box"

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## City slickers spread the word

**Victoria Fletcher on how the Square Mile helps pupils in the East End to improve literacy**

PEOPLE who work in the City of London are spending lunchtimes in East End schools, helping pupils to learn to read — and now they are to collect tokens from *The Times* to provide them with desperately needed books.

The employees are to urge colleagues to put the tokens in special collection bins around the office: the tokens will then be passed on to schools, which exchange them for books.

Sharon Merryman, community relations officer for Lloyd's of London, said she had been impressed by the number of companies and employees eager to go into schools near by in Tower Hamlets to help pupils on a one-to-one basis. "The uptake recently has been amazing. It is growing to such an extent that when I go to see a company which is part of Lloyd's it is hard to get them to talk about anything else. They realise how good it is for them and for local kids."

After liaising with schools in Tower Hamlets for four years, volunteers from Lloyd's have realised that new books are urgently required if literacy levels are to continue to improve. Lloyd's says it will create collection points in each of its companies for the Free Books for Schools tokens, so employees who may not wish to teach in schools can still help out by donating tokens. Ms Merryman said that employees found watching pupils overcome difficulties ex-



One of the Lloyd's underwriters helping East End youngsters with their reading

trepreneurship. "They say that when they watch the confidence of the child improve it is incredible. Firms like the scheme because it also allows staff from different departments to meet each other, which can create better co-operation back in the office."

The upsurge in City companies wishing to take part has been prompted by the National Year of Reading which began last September. Firms

such as Clifford Chance, WH Smith and the Bankers Trust are involved and British Telecom is to announce its own pilot project to send 500 employees to teach in schools.

The Bank of England regularly sends 20 staff to two primary schools in Tower Hamlets. Linda Barnard, community relations manager, said the work had helped to forge links between the institution and local communities. Volun-

teers from the Bank found that it boosted their morale.

"The Bank of England has always felt it has a responsibility for society. We do this scheme for philanthropic reasons to bridge the gap between those with wealth and the less fortunate. It's also a popular project because it does not take up too much time," Ms Barnard said.

Peter Thompson, community operations manager for BT, said the company had decided to introduce the scheme in view of the Government's wish to encourage business involvement with schools and the drive to improve literacy in schools. "Companies helping to teach children to read is an idea which seems to have mushroomed." He added that the scheme could ultimately help to provide candidates qualified to join BT's workforce.

The number of tokens required per book will vary from about 100 to, for large atlases and dictionaries, 500.

### YOUR TOKEN IS ON PAGE 24

Everyone can help a school to get more books by simply collecting the Free Books for Schools tokens from *The Times*, *The Sunday Times* and Walker's Crisps. The school will be able to exchange the tokens for all types of books to suit every age of pupil. Schools can order as many copies as they wish of each book: 100 tokens to receive for a wide choice of paperback titles, 250 for longer, larger novels and 500 for audio books, teacher's Big Books, books in Braille, as well as world atlases and dictionaries.



# Bevin told Perón: hands off Falklands

Anti-British agitation brought threat of conflict three decades before invasion, reports Mark Henderson

ERNEST BEVIN formally warned Argentina to keep its hands off the Falkland Islands or risk war with Britain, documents released under the 50-year rule have shown.

The Labour Foreign Secretary told his Argentine counterpart at a meeting in 1948 that Britain would not tolerate any attempt to seize the Falklands.

The warning to Juan Atilio Bramuglia followed intense anti-British agitation in Argentina, which diplomats feared was being whipped up by the populist Government of President Juan Perón to press its claim to the Falklands and other British possessions in the South Atlantic and Antarctica.

"I thought it right to tell Dr Bramuglia that if any attack were made on the Falkland Islands we should defend ourselves and that there would be hostilities," Bevin wrote after the meeting in London. Bramuglia, he wrote, assured him that Argentina did not want to go to war over the claim.

A detailed Foreign Office briefing paper on Anglo-Argentinian relations, drafted in January 1948 and declassified at the weekend, also hints at the possibility of military action in the region. It notes that

Perón twice ordered "elaborate naval expeditions" to British possessions in Antarctica, which committed "acts of trespass on British territory" by setting up bases on Deception Island and Garmna Island.

"These... were made the subject of two strongly-worded notes of protest to the Argentine Government in December 1947, and the question of what further action should be taken to defend British interests in the Antarctic is now under consideration," the paper said.

Bevin's intransigence over the Falklands stands in stark contrast to the position of Harold Wilson, who in 1968 held secret talks with Argentina about transferring sovereignty of the islands, according to documents released last week under the 30-year rule. The 1940s



Perón: ordered elaborate naval exercises in region

saw a marked deterioration in relations between Britain and Argentina, which had been largely friendly before the election of Perón in 1946. A series of reports from Britain's charge d'affaires in Buenos Aires, G.P. Labouchere, also newly released, chart his growing anxiety at the intensity of anti-British feeling.

Tension became acute after Reconquest Day on August 12,

1948, the public holiday marking Argentina's victory over British troops at Buenos Aires in 1806. The occasion was "celebrated with marked pomp and ceremony," Labouchere said, and was "accompanied by the type of effervescent patriotism that has become the peculiar characteristic of the present Perón administration."

A large crowd watched Perón light the "Flame of the Argentine Spirit" in the Plaza de la Mayo, after which 15 torches lit from the flame were carried away on Bedford trucks to the provinces.

As the last of the trucks left, Labouchere wrote, "it was announced amidst cheers that it carried the flame that was destined to go to the Falklands and the Antarctic."

Other actions by the Perón Government were also calculated to stir up anger at Britain over the Falklands. Labouchere said. A minister had publicly accepted a businessman's offer of \$100,000 to build an Argentinian school in the islands, and a prefabricated building was made to be transported there to house a fisheries mission.

The Foreign Office's contemptuous attitude towards Argentina's posturing in the South Atlantic is illustrated by a handwritten note on the cover of one of the documents, inviting an official to "glance at the latest instalment of nonsense from the Argentine".



Ernest Bevin: gave stern warning, though aides dismissed Argentinian actions as nonsense

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Man held over death of barmaid

The boyfriend of a barmaid found murdered after a New Year's Eve party was arrested yesterday. Kerry Scott, 24, was last seen walking home with Richard Tate, 29, from the pub where she worked. Her body was discovered on New Year's Day by a relative who became concerned when she failed to answer the telephone.

Miss Scott, who lodged at Waterlooville, Hampshire, had been severely beaten and had other injuries inflicted with a sharp instrument. Police said that Mr Tate, who lives a few doors away, was arrested at 5am at an address in London. They said inquiries into Miss Scott's death were continuing.

### Army inquiry

Military police are investigating the death in custody of a former army doctor suspected of child sex abuse. Paul Morris, 46, who deserted 17 years ago amid similar allegations, died at the military prison in Colchester on December 20.

### Three held

Police arrested three Gloucester teenagers on suspicion of murder. A 39-year-old subcontractor who was involved in a fight in the city on December 22 later went home to Bedfordshire. He fell ill on Christmas Eve and died on Saturday.

### Kidnap charge

An unemployed man aged 39 from Bath was charged with kidnapping and false imprisonment yesterday after the alleged abduction of a woman in the city last Wednesday. Katy Caven, 38, was found in Brixton, South London.

### Queen's baubles

The Queen is auctioning her Christmas tree decorations at the Victoria and Albert Museum to raise £100,000 for the Society of Stars, which helps children with cerebral palsy. The 400 pieces include a fairy by designer Zandra Rhodes.

## Thirty opt for spartan life Hume 'out of touch with business'

By JASON ALLARDYCE

ONE of Scotland's most beautiful but remote Hebridean islands might soon offer a spartan home to new inhabitants.

Scottish Natural Heritage, which manages Rum (pop: 19), recently announced that it was so concerned about the falling population that it would seek people to move in. At least 30 have made inquiries. The agency describes Rum, 14

miles from the West Highland mainland, as "a jewel in the crown of conservation management" where red deer flourish. Now man is an endangered species on an island where 400 people lived before the Highland Clearances.

The newcomers will enjoy spectacular scenery and views. But life is not exactly idyllic. The ferry runs four times a

week — weather permitting: there is no mains water or electricity; and there is one shop. The sole road, a dirt track, does not go round the whole island.

Scottish Natural Heritage wants to attract self-sufficient people but says that the infrastructure cannot support a sudden increase in numbers: the aim is to build up to about 50 residents over ten years.

CARDINAL Basil Hume and the new Anglican Bishop of Liverpool were criticised yesterday after claiming that family life was being jeopardised by people having to work over Christmas.

Interviewed for GMTV's Sunday Programme, Cardinal Hume, leader of the Roman Catholic Church in England and Wales, said that, in the interests of family life, city traders should have refused to work over Christmas to prepare for the introduction of the euro and shop staff should also have declined to go in.

Bill Morris, of the Transport and General

Workers' Union, said that he had started an important debate. He told GMTV: "I think what the Cardinal is saying is — in our quest for competitiveness we must have regard for humanising the workplace and looking after the family."

On the same programme, the Right Rev James Jones urged employers to take more account of the family. He said: "I think the way some people are made to work is very destructive of family life and people who lead companies ought to be more responsible."

Supermarkets said that employees had

freedom of choice over whether they worked at Christmas.

Ruth Lea, of the Institute of Directors, said that this was a multicultural society with many non-Christians happy to work over the festive period. She said: "Where is their evidence of people going to work against their will? I feel they are out of touch. There should be a balance. People should be committed to work and family."

Bishop Jones also called for tax allowances to be transferable between parents if one decides to stay at home to look after a child.

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		Lancaster	£88
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		Gloucester	£92
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		Nottingham City	£98
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		Cardiff	£68
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Snow ploughs clear the concrete around grounded aircraft at Lambert International Airport in St Louis yesterday as some of the worst snowstorms ever recorded in the American Midwest left 11 people dead over the weekend (Damian Whitworth writes). Chicago was buried under

## Midwest snowstorms kill 11

22 in of snow, the heaviest fall in more than 30 years. Richard Daley, the city's mayor, pleaded with people to stay indoors. The band of snow swept from Minnesota in the north as far south as Arkansas, where two people died in road accidents. Pilots of 60 vehicles or more were reported in several states, accounting for another seven deaths. In Illinois, two men apparently died of heart attacks while trying to shovel snow. Elsewhere, weather wreaked havoc with hundreds of flights taking people home after the holidays. Only a few flights were able to get in or out of O'Hare International Airport in Chicago, the nation's busiest.

## Albright set to snub Sharon

Jerusalem: In a sign of American dissatisfaction with Israel's freezing of the peace process, Madeleine Albright, the Secretary of State, has reportedly refused to meet Ariel Sharon when the Foreign Minister visits America later this week (writes Ross Dunn).

The diplomatic snub comes as the White House is preparing to roll out the red carpet for Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, who is expected to hold a summit meeting with President Clinton in March.

A spokesman for Mr Sharon refused to comment, but his office said in a statement that he would be meeting Dennis Ross, the US special envoy to the Middle East, in New York. Mr Ross is expected to visit the region next week in an effort to convince Israel to implement the Wye River agreement.

The Israeli Cabinet last month halted any more transfers of land in the West Bank under the accord until the Palestinians had met a list of conditions, including dropping threats to unilaterally declare an independent state in May. Analysts believe the agreement was frozen because Benjamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, is campaigning to win back right-wing voters ahead of the May 17 elections.

In a sign that the campaign could turn violent, police yesterday arrested Yair Ben-Ahri, 26, who was assigned to protect Ehud Barak, the Labour Party leader, after the security guard was overheard saying that people like him [an Ashkenazi] should be killed.

ISRAELI police last night arrested eight members of an American Christian cult for allegedly plotting extreme acts of violence in the hope of bringing about the Second Coming of Jesus.

The planned violence allegedly included opening fire on Israeli police and at secret sites inside Jerusalem's Old City, with one probable target being the Temple Mount.

A senior police officer told reporters that the cult members believed that, if they died during the shootout, it would "lead them to heaven".

The arrests followed raids on the flats of the Denver-based apocalyptic Concerned Christians in two Jerusalem suburbs in the first sign of a crackdown against cults and Masonic groups ahead of the millennium.

"They planned to carry out violent and extreme acts in the streets of Jerusalem at the end of 1999 to start the process of bringing Jesus back to life," Brigadier-General Elihu Ben-Onn, the national police spokesman, said. "The arrests were carried out to protect certain sectors of the Israeli population and members of the cult themselves."

Israeli police say the leader of the group, Monte Kim Miller, who has foretold his own death on the streets of Jerusalem during 1999, is not in the country. Mr Miller, 44, has said he is one of the final two witnesses to the end

## US religious group is accused of plotting millennium mayhem, writes Ross Dunn in Jerusalem

of the world prophesied in the Book of Revelations.

The cult members, including at least six of their children, did not resist arrest. Up to 70 members are believed to be in Israel after disappearing from Denver in October. The Israeli secret police, Shin Bet, have been monitoring the movements of some since their arrival in November. It is believed that some of the Concerned Christians had left incriminating evidence on e-mail and telephone messages. Those arrested are all expected to be deported back to the United States.

The raid against them was led by Jerusalem's area commander Yair Yihai, who said he was concerned to allow visiting pilgrims access to holy sites while preventing extremist groups from entering the country.

"The police will continue to work in every legal way to make possible free-

dom of religion and ritual in Jerusalem, and in Israel, for all religions, in the year of the millennium," he said. "However, we will act firmly against the attempts of extreme groups to block access to Christians in the year 1999."

After the raids, neighbours said the cult members had not bothered them. "They were so nice, so quiet, so polite," said Rami Hanania, who lived near one of their houses.

Most of the cult members disappeared from Denver after Mr Miller prophesied that an earthquake would destroy the city. Although the calamity did not happen, many had already sold their belongings, and some headed for Israel.

Experts and relatives of members of the cult believe that Mr Miller, who claims that God speaks through him, has the power to persuade his followers to take their own lives.

According to a 1997 affidavit, filed by Nicolette Weaver, 16, in a US district court, her mother, a cult member, had said she would kill her daughter if ordered to by Mr Miller.

"My mother told me in August 1996 that we have only 40 months left on Earth," the affidavit said. "My mother told me that if Kim Miller told her to kill me, she would." The affidavit was used successfully to award Nicolette's father sole custody.

## Second UN jet brought down in Angola

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

A SECOND United Nations cargo plane was shot out of the sky over Angola at the weekend as the 1994 peace agreement continued to unravel despite a 1,000-strong UN monitoring force.

Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General, was outraged by the attack on the chartered C130 evacuating staff and equipment from the beleaguered city of Huambo to the capital, Luanda, on Saturday. All UN flights in the country have now been suspended.

The South African-owned plane - carrying four Angolans, two Filipinos, an American and a Namibian - was hit by a missile about 20 minutes after take-off, near the rebel stronghold of Bailundo. The pilot tried to return to Huambo, but crashed in rebel-controlled territory about 50 miles short of the city.

Troop-contributing countries were told of the attack as they met in New York to discuss the shooting down of another UN flight in the same area, eight days earlier. On Boxing Day, another C130, also owned by TransAfrica of South Africa, crashed near by with 14 people aboard.

The latest outbreak in Angola's long-running civil war began last month when government troops moved against Unita when it failed to relinquish territory in the central highlands and disband its 30,000-man army as required by the 1994 Lusaka Protocol. Recent fighting has been concentrated near Huambo, the country's second largest city.

The UN began moving out its Huambo staff after a rebel artillery barrage killed at least eight people on Wednesday. Issa Diallo, head of the UN Observer Mission in Angola, defended the decision to continue the airlift despite the loss of the first transport plane. He said that four government aircraft and two other UN planes had flown out of the city safely on Saturday, and added: "One should draw the conclusion that it is not normal to continue shooting at UN planes."

The UN has been withdrawing its 1,000 monitors from the battle zones to Luanda, and the Mr Annan is due to report in two weeks on whether the peacekeeping mission should continue when its mandate expires on February 25.

Mr Annan, echoing an earlier demand by the Security Council, called for an "immediate ceasefire which will permit the conduct of search-and-rescue missions, as well as the relocation of UN staff to safer areas".

The Government claims that Unita is holding crash survivors, but the rebels deny that.

## Children's gifts make ailing Reagan smile

WHAT do you give a father who was once the most powerful man in the world but now doesn't even know what Christmas is? In a touching bulletin on Ronald Reagan's fight against Alzheimer's disease, his daughter has revealed how last Christmas the family delighted him with simple, childish gifts.

Patti Davis, who was famously estranged from her father when he was in office but is now trying to help him to make sense of a world he finds increasingly confusing, described how she and her brother, Michael, thought hard before presenting him with a snow globe, picture books and chocolates. They were rewarded with smiles but little comprehension.

In an article in *The New York Times*, Ms Davis did not say whether her father still recognises her. Recent reports have said that Mr Reagan, who is almost never seen in public, now only rarely recognises his wife, Nancy.

"Although my father is not in pain, he loses more of himself each month to Alzheimer's. For him, as for anyone who has the disease, time is the enemy. It becomes jumbled, confused, compressed and emptier all the time - hollowed out," Ms Davis wrote.

She and Michael, the Reagan's adopted son, arranged to give their father presents from them and their brother, Ron, at a meeting at their father's office shortly before Christmas. "We have all thought along the same lines: what will be like to look at what will hold his attention, or even better, tug at his imagination?" she wrote.

## Snow globe and chocolate delight ex-President, writes Damian Whitworth

"I watch his hands as he tries to be careful, peeling tape from the wrappings. Then he just tears it, giving in to impatience perhaps. His eyes light up at the chocolates; for a moment we're co-conspirators, bringing him a delicacy he rarely gets. 'Those are all for you, dad,' Michael tells him. 'You don't have to share them with anyone.' 'Oh good,' he says playfully, pulling them towards him."

"He becomes engrossed in the books, the photographs of lakes and meadows and



Reagan: rarely in public since Alzheimer's struck

mountains. He turns the snow globe and smiles at the tiny winter wonderland. I tell him that when he fires of the sunshine outside the window, he can just look into the snow globe and change the season. He looks straight into my eyes and says flatly: 'OK.'"

She had chosen the snow globe hoping it might spark a memory of their time together when she was a child. "I'm not sure if my father still understands Christmas, but I'm certain he understands giving," she says. "And for the time we are there, so do Michael and I. When my brother and I leave, I ask him who was given the greater gift, our father or us. He doesn't need to answer me; we both know."

Ms Davis, 45, was estranged from her parents for years. Even as he was ordering military action or discussing new arms purchases she was a critical peace activist. Later she incurred her parents' displeasure when she posed for *Playboy*. Now an author and screenwriter, she says the past differences have been overcome.

Ms Davis painted a sad picture of Mr Reagan going into his office in Los Angeles even though he is incapable of working.

"He still goes there for a couple of hours on weekday mornings. There isn't much for him to do, but that isn't the point. It's a routine, and with Alzheimer's routines are important. There is something comforting about cluttering up his desk with gifts and cards. A pad that's never written on is always in the same place, has been for months."

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# the fashion revolution



Above and below: cream trench coat, £615, above the knee check skirt, £155, cream stretch knitted top, £150, and leather lace-up shoes, £325. All items are available from Burberrys, 18-22 Haymarket, London SW1 (0171-930 3343). Photographs: MARIO TESTINO



have always been great advertising concepts," he says. Guy Bordin shot fantastic pictures for Charles Jourdan. Helmut Newton and Richard Avedon also produced some of their greatest work for ads, but they tended to be exceptions.

"Nowadays, most of the leading fashion houses realise that a very striking campaign works on two levels — it makes an impact on the public and creates heat within the industry itself.

"If a staid company suddenly starts using an avant-garde photographer, that instantly makes people in the business talk and, because this morning's insider gossip is this afternoon's MTV headline, ultimately that sense of curiosity works its way through to the public."

This was certainly the case with Burberrys. When Rose-

mary Bravo flew Concorde into London this year from a high-powered job at Saks Fifth Avenue in New York, in order to rescue the company from Burberry-check, hell, what kept the story alive in the crucial lull between her much-heralded arrival and the first batch of clothes bearing the new, sleek imprint — at least as far as the industry's opinion leaders were concerned — was the news that Mario Testino, Fabien Baron (the much-lauded art director of *Harpers Bazaar* magazine) and Stella Tennant were collaborating on the campaign.

This information encouraged the kind of people who previously would not have crossed the street to check the label out to jet into London to view early samples.

By the time that the finished collection was ready — com-

plete with the perfect slimmed-down trench, spot-on pleated skirts and updated cashmere pieces — Joseph in London had placed orders, as had Bergdorf Goodman and Barneys in New York (three stores that, in the past, would have been as likely to stock Burberrys on their rails as they would be to drape George at Asda across their windows). Clearly this would never have happened if the somewhat staid, tourist-fodder Burberrys clothes had not been transformed into a sharp, focused collection of must-haves, but equally there's no doubt that without a strong campaign retailers would have been much less willing to take a risk with what is essentially an entirely new collection.

"Obviously when you approach a campaign, you choose the people whose work you most admire," says Bravo, "but it would be disingenuous not to concede that by hiring from the A-list, you're sending out messages about the kind of player you intend your company to be."

Photographers are no less proud of their advertising work than are their clients. "Six years ago I was always hearing from photographers and models that they were doing what they called money jobs," says Lucinda Cham-

bers, the fashion director of British *Vogue*. "But now they do it for the challenge and the excitement — and they're proud of them, whereas previously they would keep quiet about them. Maybe there is more integrity involved, or perhaps the campaigns pay so well that photographers can afford to be selective."

"Either way, the A-list only does jobs that will stretch them creatively. They see no distinction between advertising work and their editorial, because even though their names do not appear on the advertising, everyone in the business knows who's shot what. If anything, photographers and models actually work harder on the ads because they are being paid astronomical amounts. With editorial, they earn so little that some of them adopt the attitude that the magazine is lucky to have them at all."

"Certainly, when it comes to exhibitions and coffee table tomes, Mario Testino is happy to display his advertising work alongside his editorial — not surprisingly, given that many people credit the highly glamorised, sexually charged campaigns he shot for Gucci as being a key factor in the phenomenal turnaround of the company's image in the Nineties."

He also notes that "the big thing that happened to fashion this decade is that commercial stopped being a dirty word. In fact, magazines became much more commercial than they had ever been before, so the moral line between editorial and advertising blurred anyway."

"Everyone's realised that there's nothing wrong with selling stuff, and people have realised that if they want to be totally pure, they should be working in an art gallery, not fashion."

If the top photographers are now accorded an unprecedented amount of freedom in the way that they choose to shoot a campaign, they are still required to provide the client with detailed storyboards and Polaroid photographs before they shoot the real thing. If this approach makes new Labour's pager-obsession look

lax, the point is that advertising campaigns offer clients perhaps their best opportunity of the season to get their mission statement across.

"At Burberrys, because we are trying to revolutionise the merchandise, we have very specific things to say," says Rosemary Bravo. "We have to explain to the customer that the ethos is British, but not

staid, cross-generational but modern, as well as focus people on the fabrics."

"This is the company that invented gabardine; after all, 'You might get great pictures in a newspaper or magazine that cost you nothing,' continues Bravo. "On the other hand, they might have to drop the picture of your jumper at the last minute because another



EMMA HOPE  
Shoe designer

#### Describe your style.

Currently, dark pinstripe jackets with a white T-shirt, navy trousers, glitter cardigans and skirts from "dressing-up box shops".

What do you think of the current fashion trends? I like skinny, sweeping trousers and

Voyagers turquoise, sparkly, leopard-print de-voré dresses. And I love next spring's coral and aqua colours.

What period in fashion do you love? The Thirties and Forties — Marlene Dietrich and Carole Lombard. I love the blonde hair, the trousers, the inquiring eyebrows.

When do you go shopping? When it all gets too much.

What are your pet hates in the world of fashion? It is unnecessary to criticise anyone, however annoying

their stuff is, if they are trying to be creative.

What is the most expensive/luxurious item you have ever bought? My horse, Flash, redeemed by the grazing package of £8 a week, but that doesn't include worming.

What accessory can you not live without? My Mont Blanc pen. If there was a fire, I'd be sad if I couldn't find Cracker the dog.

Where do you like to shop? I love Peter Jones because it is so calm, and the razzmatazz of Westbourne Grove. I also like any shop that sells old clothes and handbags.

What piece of clothing/accessory would you most like to receive as a gift? Little dangly aquamarine earrings from Dinny Hall.

What is your style motto? If in any doubt, buy both.



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THE TIMES

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stores are filled, and there is still more glucose in the blood beyond that which the body needs to function. Insulin will convert the excess to fatty tissue called triglyceride, which we carry on our bodies as the main chemical constituent of adipose tissue (the stuff you're trying to lose). That is why insulin has been called the "fat-producing hormone".

As an overweight person becomes fatter, the insulin problem expands. Numerous studies have shown that the obese (and diabetic) individual is extremely unresponsive to the action of insulin. Carbohydrates are triggering the release of large quantities of the hormone, but the body is incapable of utilising it efficiently. The body responds by putting out yet more insulin.

The insulin "receptors" on the surface of the body's cells are blocked from carrying out their function, which in turn prevents insulin from stimulating the transfer of glucose to the cells for energy use. Mediated by high insulin lev-

els, apart from burning off fat, one of the most attractive features of any low-carbohydrate, ketosis-producing diet is that it suppresses hunger and lowers the appetite. There have been many low-carbohydrate diets over the years.

But many of them do not bring carbohydrates down to a level (generally less than 40 grams a day) that will permit benign dietary ketosis. The Atkins programme does.

However, you do not have to be austere — you can enjoy a roast leg of lamb, lobster or even bacon and eggs in its most liberal, lifetime-maintenance form. The diet contains most vegetables, nuts and seeds, grains and starches, and some fruits. It also contains a sumptuous variety of delicious protein foods and some high-fat foods such as butter and cream.

That is because fat satiates the appetite. Fat stops the carbohydrate craving. And fat, in the absence of carbohydrate, accelerates the burning of stored fat. Thus, the wise dieter can use fat to his or her advantage.

Still, the Atkins diet is not a high-fat diet, partly because some of the largest sources of fat in the modern diet are junk foods, which you are not allowed now. For even though this diet is about the benefits of fat and protein, it is important to emphasise that the real source of health improvement on this diet will come from excluding the typically gargantuan modern consumption of junk carbohydrates. On the Atkins diet, you may be eating a larger quantity of meat, fish, fowl, eggs and butter than you consumed previously, but you will probably be eating less fat overall.

The beauty of this diet is that you will succeed even though you may have always been hungry, tired, depressed and unsuccessful on other regimes. This diet banishes fatigue, irritability, poor concentration, insomnia and dizziness through lowering the amount of blood sugar and refined carbohydrates. The Atkins programme will keep you slim and healthy for a long life while you enjoy a varied, rich and satisfying diet.

Excerpted from Dr Atkins' New Diet Revolution by Dr Robert C. Atkins, published by Vermilion at £6.99. Times readers can order a copy (free postage/packing) by calling The Times Bookshop on 0990-124452. Copyright Dr Robert C. Atkins 1999.



By the time they are adults, many people have progressively less balanced diets, and realise that they have a problem

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<b>MILK PRODUCTS</b>		
Milk	230ml/8oz	12
Semi-skimmed	30ml/1oz	1.3
Cream	single, 30ml/1oz	1
Whipping	30ml/1oz	1
Plain yoghurt	stirred, 230ml/8oz	13
	whole, plain, 230ml/8oz	12
<b>CHEESE</b>		
Cheddar	30g/1oz	0.6
Swiss	30g/1oz	1
Cottage	plain, 230g/8oz	8.3
Cottage	reduced fat, 230g/8oz	8.2
Cream cheese	30g/1oz	0.5
Camembert	30g/1oz	0.5
Feta	30g/1oz	1
Mozzarella	30g/1oz	1
Roquefort	30g/1oz	0.6
<b>VEGETABLES</b>		
Asparagus	6 spears	3
Beans, French	boiled, 50g/1 3/4oz	3.3
Beetroot	2.5cm/1in in diameter	15.6
Broad	cooked, 60g/2oz	1
Brussels sprouts	4	6
Cabbage	80g/2 1/2oz	4
Carrot	12cm/7in	6
Cauliflower	cooked, 60g/2oz	2
Cucumber	6 slices	2
Lettuce	one, 2 leaves	9
	round, 1 head, 15cm/6in	2
	iceberg, 1/6 head	4
Mushrooms	10 small or 4 large	10
Onion	60cm/2.5in	6
Peas	cooked, 60g/2oz	4
Peppers, green	2 rings	22
Potato	baked, 13.6cm/5 1/2in	7
Rhubarb	steamed, 100g	4
Spinach	100g/3 1/2oz	9
Spring greens	80g/2 1/2oz	5
Sweetcorn	cooked, 60g/2oz	5
Sweet potato	1 bar	36
	13.5cm/5 1/2in	9
Turnip	raw, 6cm/2 1/2in	6
	cooked, 60g/2oz	5
	juice, 30ml/4 oz	4
Turnips	cooked, 60g/2oz	4
<b>FRUIT</b>		
Fruit, poultry, meat or eggs		O-trace amounts

## TARGETED NUTRITION

WHEN you go down to a very low level of vegetable consumption during the first 14 days — the strictest part of the diet — you will be consuming inadequate amounts of certain nutrients.

I recommend nutritional supplements for everyone. In fact, the more I learn about nutritional supplements, the more I discover that can help nearly everyone. The antioxidant nutrients, for example, help to protect against heart disease, cancer and ageing. Who would not benefit from them?

Multiply that health-stimulating benefit by the number of nutritional breakthroughs that have accumulated during the past two decades, and you can easily see why my average patient takes more than 30 vitamin pills each day.

But for adequate nutritional support during a 14-day diet, find a very broad multiple vitamin. Such a formula should contain considerably more than the RDA of B complex and of vitamin C, and at least 40 nutrients.

Do not expect to take fewer than four pills a day. Ideally, chromium picolinate (200 to 600 mcg) should be included, to help to facilitate sugar metabolism. If you have sugar cravings, then you must include L-Glutamine (500 to 1,000 mcg) before each meal. This is a natural amino acid that can serve directly as fuel for the brain. If you are concerned about a raised cholesterol level from the beginning, you should be sure to include two borage oil capsules, two tablespoons of lecithin granules a day and 300mg of pantothine before each meal.

Note: This phase of the diet is not appropriate for pregnant women or for people with severe kidney disease.

### MEAL PLANNER IDEAS FOR THE INDUCTION DIET

**Breakfast:** 2 eggs, 1 tbsp whipping cream, 15g (1/2oz) butter with Gruyère cheese and spinach/garlic cheese and olives, corned beef or pastrami. Pancakes: 40g (1 1/2oz) soy flour, 3 eggs, 120ml (4fl oz) water, 1/2 teaspoon salt, cooking oil. Liquidize, then heat a pan covered with oil. Cook 30sec of mixture at a time. This will give you 6 servings for a carbohydrate gram count of each with 55ml (2oz) soured cream.

**Lunch:** Cheeseburger or bacon cheeseburger, no bun. Chicken or turkey burger, no bun. 30-60g (1-2oz) tossed salad with a selection of salad greens and with oil and vinegar dressing, blue cheese dressing or creamy garlic dressing; assorted cold meats — ham, tongue, salami, lean beef, chicken, turkey, and seafood as above; cucumbers in sour cream, tuna, chicken, egg, ham or lobster mayonnaise (use pure mayonnaise, not imitation) with chopped celery, onions, spring onions, capers etc. and hard-boiled egg, if desired.

**Dinner:** Starter: Seafood salad; prosciutto; prawns in garlic sauce; lobster in clarified butter. Main course: Roast leg of lamb; chicken salad; warm beef, mushroom and watercress salad. Flavour with home-made. Side dishes: 110g (4oz) of steamed vegetables from permissible vegetable list; giant mushrooms sautéed in olive oil. Dessert: Sugar-free jelly (plus dollop of whipped, artificially sweetened whipped cream). Snacks: All snacks that are made exclusively from meat, fish, fowl and eggs. Blue pancakes recipe (see above). Sweet cheese snack: 110g (4oz) cream cheese, 2 eggs (separated), 30g (1oz) sugar substitute; heat oven to 180C/350F. Gas Mix: 4 or equivalent; cream cheese with yolks, add sugar substitute, beat egg whites until stiff, fold into mixture, drop teaspoonfuls on to greased baking sheet. Bake for 10 minutes. Makes 18 snacks of 0.3 carbohydrates per serving each. Beverages: For all diets: water, soda water and sparkling mineral water; flavoured sparkling mineral waters (most specify no calories); herbal tea; decaffeinated coffee or tea. On Induction or Maintenance diet: artificial sweetened fuzzy orange drink containing some natural juice.

### THE INDUCTION DIET

on the Induction Diet? To begin with, any meat, fish, shellfish, fowl, egg dishes and almost all cheese fall of the last have some carbohydrate content, and quantities are governed by that.

Other permissible foods include vegetables of 10 per cent carbohydrate or less: lettuce, chives, cucumber, radishes, fennel, peppers, celery, alfalfa sprouts, mushrooms, morels, olives, asparagus, beans, cabbage, cauliflower, chard, aubergine, leeks, spinach, courgettes, pumpkin, turnips, broccoli, pumpkin, tomato, onion, rhubarb, avocado, Brussels sprouts, artichoke hearts.

You may garnish salads with crumbled crisp bacon, grated cheese, minced hard-boiled egg, soured cream, minced sautéed mushrooms, anchovies.

You can use all vegetable oils, and the following artificial sweeteners: saccharine, aspartame, cyclamate, acesulfame-K.

Sweeteners such as sorbitol, mannitol and other hexitols are not allowed, nor are any natural sweeteners ending in the letters -ose, such as maltose and fructose.

Common mistakes to avoid: Note that the 14-day diet contains no fruit, bread, grains, starchy vegetables or dairy products other than cheese, cream or butter. Avoid diet products unless they specifically state "no carbohydrates". The word sugarless is not sufficient.

Many products that you do not normally think of as foods, such as chewing gum, cough syrups and cough drops, are filled with sugar or other caloric sweeteners and must be avoided.

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# The pictures worth millions in



Lisa Armstrong

FASHION  
EDITOR

Ad campaigns are crucial to image-building — and design houses are prepared to pay

By the time that they have been beamed around the world, the combined cost of the pictures you see on these pages will run to several million pounds. That's because they are previews from the spring campaigns from Burberry and MaxMara, two companies whose beautiful, unsensationalist clothes — the kind most women aspire to — require, ironically, careful framing if they are to compete with the more outré designs that will be aiming to scorch an indelible impression on the collective consciousness over the coming months.

Advertising shoots have always been famous for their lavish expenditure. They have not, however, always been anticipated with quite as much interest as they are nowadays.

It took a team of 18 to realise the MaxMara pictures shown here, including Carolyn Murphy, the model, the photographer, Steven Meisel, and his four assistants, the hairdresser's assistants and the ironer — roughly three times as many as the average magazine would provide. And whereas editorial (even for a glossy front cover) gets away with paying photographers and models around £200 a day, someone in Meisel's orbit would expect upwards of £30,000. (History, alas, does not record what the ironer is paid.) Flying everyone first-class is now de rigueur, and it is hardly surprising that these epic productions turn through a company's profits.

But a good deal of agonising will have gone into more than just the money for these photographs: ad campaigns are the single most crucial tool in a company's image-building (particularly in the case of Burberry, which is at the "sensitive, second season" stage of

re-launching itself as a modern, slick label) and they have become as much a part of fashion iconography as the pictures photographers take for the top glossies.

It was not always thus. There was a time when the consumers of advertising were considered to be less visually sophisticated than the kind of readers who flick through fashion magazines — even though the images frequently sat side by side. Not surprisingly, photographers, stylists and models would do advertising strictly for the (substantial) fees. But now, as Giorgio Armani, the creative director of MaxMara, says: "The public is so visually aware that no one can afford to put out substandard images. Especially when they will be blazing across giant billboards from Sunset Boulevard to Laforet in Tokyo. There's so much information even in a tiny village in Italy you can have access to the latest catwalk directions via the internet."

"So whereas we used always to worry about frightening off the consumer, and I variably found ourselves holding back, now we definitely see ourselves competing with editorial in terms of trying to push boundaries a little bit."

That there is a huge kudos attached to working on the big campaigns reveals a great deal about the fluidity that exists between commercial and "artistic" projects. Many rule among fashion aficionados, speculation each season to see who has done the next Gucci (Mario Testino) or Calvin Klein (Testino again) campaign certainly rises (if not entirely eclipses) any interest in the next Turner Prize recipient. Testino, who shot the Burberry pictures of Stella Tennant shown here, says this is indicative of the way fashion attitudes have changed. "There

Left: black slash-neck, short-sleeve top and matching trousers, £536; black velvet flip-flops, £95. Centre: khaki sleeveless long dress, £195. Above right: khaki shirt, £95, and matching skirt, £130. Below: cream knitted sleeveless polo-neck, about £90, long cream skirt, about £138. All items are available at MaxMara, 32 Sloane Street, London SW1. (General inquiries: 0171-287 3434). Photographs: STEVEN MEISEL.



BAGS have become the grown-up woman's version of the comic annual: the fashion cognoscenti have this year's model. Well aware of this, the large fashion houses are rolling out new versions every six months. This winter, Fendi clawed back its credibility with the tiny cashmere Baguette. But if your name has finally reached the top of the waiting list, scrap it. The Baguette has been ousted by the Fendi Croissant, a half-moon-shaped variation that crouches daintily under the arm.



Next up for consideration is Gucci's Jacqueline, another semicircular reticule that comes in two sizes and will hit the stores this month. It marks a return to Gucci's flashiest, monogrammed past. When Dawn Mello took over as the head of design in the late 1980s, her mission was to strip the company's products of its tainted logo. She deleted 10,000 lines, and Tom Ford, her successor, continued the good fight. At the time this was considered brave to

the point of insanity. Yet Gucci has been one of the hottest labels of the 1990s. The company now feels sufficiently secure in its hard-won mantle of chic to return to the basics it once shunned. Enter The Jacqueline, from £250, spattered with the GG logo and embellished with those red and green stripes that once caused Dawn Mello to shudder. Even stranger, it looks very good.

James Laver, the fashion historian, once wrote that it took three decades for a discarded trend to get back on the road to fashion rehabilitation. At the end of the second millennium, however, it takes roughly eight years.



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\$5,000 - \$24,999	Annually	6.75	6.75	6.25
\$100,000 or more	Monthly	6.78	7.00	6.31
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\$5,000 - \$24,999	Monthly	6.55	6.75	6.08

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\$100,000 - \$249,999	Annually	5.95	5.95	5.45
\$25,000 - \$99,999	Annually	5.60	5.60	5.10
\$5,000 - \$24,999	Annually	5.15	5.15	4.65
\$250,000 or more	Monthly	5.98	6.15	5.51
\$100,000 - \$249,999	Monthly	5.79	5.95	5.32
\$25,000 - \$99,999	Monthly	5.46	5.60	4.98
\$5,000 - \$24,999	Monthly	5.03	5.15	4.55

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# the fashion revolution



Above and below: cream trench coat, £615, above the knee check skirt, £155, cream stretch knitted top, £150, and leather lace-up shoes, £325. All items are available from Burberrys, 18-22 Haymarket, London SW1 (0171-930 3343). Photographs: MARIO TESTINO



have always been great advertising concepts," he says. Guy Bordin shot fantastic pictures for Charles Jourdan. Helmut Newton and Richard Avedon also produced some of their greatest work for ads, but they tended to be exceptions.

"Nowadays, most of the leading fashion houses realise that a very striking campaign works on two levels — it makes an impact on the public and creates heat within the industry itself.

"If a staid company suddenly starts using an avant-garde photographer, that instantly makes people in the business talk and, because this morning's insider gossip is this afternoon's MTV headline, ultimately that sense of curiosity works its way through to the public."

This was certainly the case with Burberrys. When Rose-

mary Bravo flew Concorde into London this year from a high-powered job at Saks Fifth Avenue in New York, in order to rescue the company from Burberry-check, hell, what kept the story alive in the crucial lull between her much-heralded arrival and the first batch of clothes bearing the new, sleek imprint — at least as far as the industry's opinion leaders were concerned — was the news that Mario Testino, Fabien Baron (the much-lauded art director of *Harpers Bazaar* magazine) and Stella Tennant were collaborating on the campaign.

This information encouraged the kind of people who previously would not have crossed the street to check the label out to jet into London to view early samples.

By the time that the finished collection was ready — com-

plete with the perfect slimmed-down trench, spot-on pleated skirts and updated cashmere pieces — Joseph in London had placed orders, as had Bergdorf Goodman and Barneys in New York (three stores that, in the past, would have been as likely to stock Burberrys on their rails as they would be to drape George at Asda across their windows). Clearly this would never have happened if the somewhat staid, tourist-fodder Burberrys clothes had not been transformed into a sharp, focused collection of must-haves, but equally there's no doubt that without a strong campaign retailers would have been much less willing to take a risk with what is essentially an entirely new collection.

"Obviously when you approach a campaign, you choose the people whose work you most admire," says Bravo, "but it would be disingenuous not to concede that by hiring from the A-list, you're sending out messages about the kind of player you intend your company to be."

Photographers are no less proud of their advertising work than are their clients. "Six years ago I was always hearing from photographers and models that they were doing what they called money jobs," says Lucinda Cham-

bers, the fashion director of British *Vogue*. "But now they do it for the challenge and the excitement — and they're proud of them, whereas previously they would keep quiet about them. Maybe there is more integrity involved, or perhaps the campaigns pay so well that photographers can afford to be selective."

"Either way, the A-list only does jobs that will stretch them creatively. They see no distinction between advertising work and their editorial, because even though their names do not appear on the advertising, everyone in the business knows who's shot what. If anything, photographers and models actually work harder on the ads because they are being paid astronomical amounts. With editorial, they earn so little that some of them adopt the attitude that the magazine is lucky to have them at all."

"Certainly, when it comes to exhibitions and coffee table tomes, Mario Testino is happy to display his advertising work alongside his editorial — not surprisingly, given that many people credit the highly glamorised, sexually charged campaigns he shot for Gucci as being a key factor in the phenomenal turnaround of the company's image in the Nineties."

He also notes that "the big thing that happened to fashion this decade is that commercial stopped being a dirty word. In fact, magazines became much more commercial than they had ever been before, so the moral line between editorial and advertising blurred anyway."

"Everyone's realised that there's nothing wrong with selling stuff, and people have realised that if they want to be totally pure, they should be working in an art gallery, not fashion."

If the top photographers are now accorded an unprecedented amount of freedom in the way that they choose to shoot a campaign, they are still required to provide the client with detailed storyboards and Polaroid photographs before they shoot the real thing. If this approach makes new Labour's pager-obsession look

lax, the point is that advertising campaigns offer clients perhaps their best opportunity of the season to get their mission statement across.

"At Burberrys, because we are trying to revolutionise the merchandise, we have very specific things to say," says Rosemary Bravo. "We have to explain to the customer that the ethos is British, but not

staid, cross-generational but modern, as well as focus people on the fabrics."

"This is the company that invented gabardine; after all, 'You might get great pictures in a newspaper or magazine that cost you nothing,' continues Bravo. "On the other hand, they might have to drop the picture of your jumper at the last minute because another



EMMA HOPE  
Shoe designer

#### Describe your style.

Currently, dark pinstripe jackets with a white T-shirt, navy trousers, glitter cardigans and skirts from "dressing-up box shops".

What do you think of the current fashion trends? I like skinny, sweeping trousers and

Voyagers turquoise, sparkly, leopard-print de-voré dresses. And I love next spring's coral and aqua colours.

What period in fashion do you love? The Thirties and Forties — Marlene Dietrich and Carole Lombard. I love the blonde hair, the trousers, the inquiring eyebrows.

When do you go shopping? When it all gets too much.

What are your pet hates in the world of fashion? It is unnecessary to criticise anyone, however annoying

their stuff is, if they are trying to be creative.

What is the most expensive/luxurious item you have ever bought? My horse, Flash, redeemed by the grazing package of £8 a week, but that doesn't include worming.

What accessory can you not live without? My Mont Blanc pen.

If there was a fire, I'd be sad if I couldn't find Cracker the dog.

Where do you like to shop? I love Peter Jones because it is so calm, and the razzmatazz of Westbourne Grove. I also like any shop that sells old clothes and handbags.

What piece of clothing/accessory would you most like to receive as a gift? Little dangly aquamarine earrings from Dinny Hall.

What is your style motto? If in any doubt, buy both.



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# THE TIMES ARTS

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## Wrong turning on the South Bank

The latest 'masterplan' for London's biggest arts centre is an extravagant mistake, says Marcus Binney

For the third time the South Bank Centre has got it wrong. The latest plans have been described as visionary. But once again the prospect of large sums of cash, whether from the lottery or property development, has destructively distorted what remains an essential mission: humanising the concrete wilderness of the nation's No 1 arts centre.

Last year the £150 million Richard Rogers scheme for the South Bank crashed because the Arts Council could not find the money for the proposals of its own former deputy chairman. Over the years that the scheme was under discussion, repeated calls had been made for the South Bank to slim it down, or bring it forward in

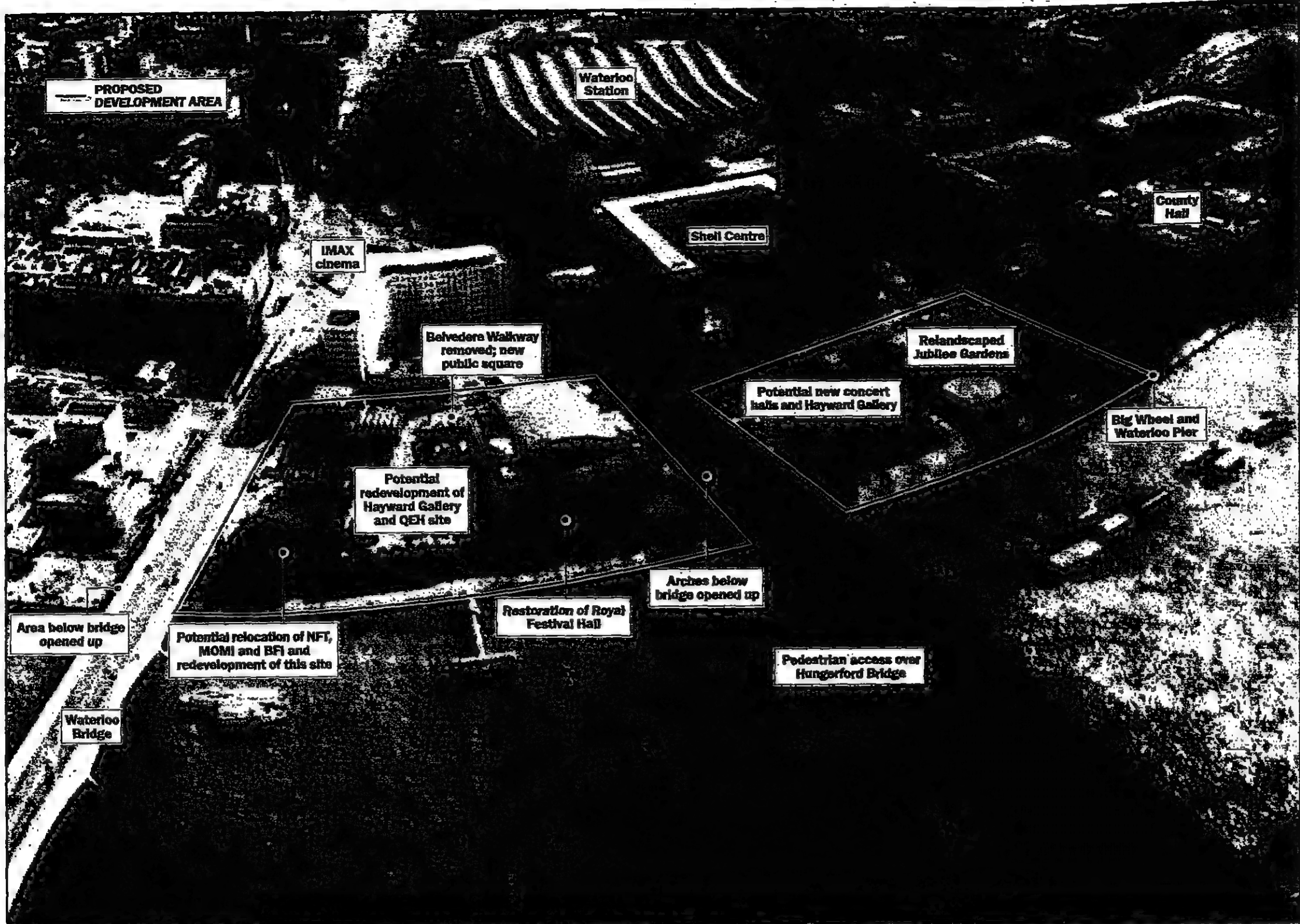
'The centre needs this plan like a hole in the head'

phases, but the centre's management would not listen.

It is time for a little history. The original Terry Farrell masterplan was costed at just £15 million, and achieved what was needed on a self-financing basis. It demolished the hated overhead walkways and brought the place alive with shops, bars and restaurants. For just £5 million (included in the price) the great engineer Peter Rice was going to cast a stretch fabric roof over these 1960s concert halls and galleries, bringing the roof terraces into use — part indoors, part outdoors.

Things went wrong when, in the giddy property market of the Eighties, this grew (under the developer Stuart Lipson) into a £100 million scheme that crashed with the recession. "I began with a light touch and a low budget, and ended up doing a Broadgate," says Farrell wistfully.

Then came the Rogers scheme. In his conception, the commercial elements were first removed and then brought back to provide revenue funding for the hugely in-



creased running costs of a much larger centre.

The current scheme, by Elliot Bernard, the South Bank Centre's new chairman, has two plus points. First, he proposes to reopen the river promenade from County Hall to the National Theatre by unblocking the arches beneath Hungerford Railway Bridge and Waterloo Bridge. Secondly, he wants to introduce a popular element, with a much stronger cinema presence. This will consist of a multi-screen commercial cinema, a new National Library of Film and TV and a more prominent National Film Theatre moved up from below Waterloo Bridge.

Film is one of the quiet successes of the South Bank.

MOMI (Museum of the Moving Image) now has 350,000 visitors a year and urgently needs more space. The British Film Institute wants to move its whole operation to the South Bank, where its lottery-funded IMAX cinema is nearing completion in the centre of Waterloo roundabout. (Let's leave aside the question of why public money is needed for an IMAX, when there is a commercially funded one in the Trocadero.)

Bernard offers two options for his "cine city": either to build on the so-called Hungerford car park site next to Jubilee Gardens, or to demolish the Hayward, the Purcell Room and the Queen Elizabeth Hall, unblocking what he calls "a concrete plug" in the

middle of the site. In their place, Bernard offers two new concert halls and a new gallery on the Hungerford car park site. Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, has added his support to this idea. "Goodness, London has not had a new concert hall for more than a decade," he says.

Yet can anyone seriously justify the demolition of expensive arts facilities that are just 30 years old? If lottery millions were not available, no one would even be thinking of it. The South Bank says glily: "We have a huge affection for the buildings," but the spokesman adds airily: "New building materials and construction techniques may well make it cheaper to build new concert halls and galleries."

The reason for even thinking about such extravagance is that, according to the South Bank, the Arts Council lottery fund has " earmarked £25 million for us" — in the form of a nod and a wink at a press conference, no less. Add to this the millionaire publisher Paul Hamlyn's generous offer of £17 million and it is clear that the South Bank management thinks that well over £40 million is already in the kitty.

Many people hate the exposed concrete of the South Bank's buildings. But now Brutalism, like much 1960s design, is in fashion. The Twentieth Century Society and Modernists will fight hard for these buildings.

The QEII is highly valued for its acoustic, and is the preferred venue for a whole range of chamber orchestras. The Hayward Gallery is enjoying a renaissance under its new director, and has always been an exciting exhibition space for designers willing to work hard on the installations.

The South Bank also glosses over the potential controversy of building on the Hungerford car park. Locals feel strongly that it should be incorporated into Jubilee Gardens as green space. "Improving the quality of open space will be a key priority," says the South Bank, dodging the question of whether it will be grass or paving.

The other big change is that the massive Shell Centre, which for years has been so

much dead space on the way from Waterloo station, is now available for public use. Mark Moody-Stuart, Shell's chairman, says: "Our current plans are to create a mixture of retail, residential and leisure uses which could include a fitness centre and cinemas."

Cinemas? If Shell is providing cinemas, why does Bernard have to demolish the Hayward or blot out the Hungerford site to offer the same thing? Perhaps the BFI might even find a cubbyhole in the 26 storeys of the Shell Centre.

According to Shell's own company history, its mighty 1950s headquarters came with "a general store and a shooting range... leisure and health facilities for staff — reception rooms large and

small, exhibition areas, a theatre and a cinema, a gymnasium, squash courts, a sports hall and a swimming pool just short of Olympic size."

Deep underground was secure parking for 453 cars as well as office accommodation for 5,000 people. Part of the Shell Centre is already being marketed as apartments, but a vast quantity of space remains which could rapidly be brought into use.

The South Bank is about to set off on yet another "masterplan": it needs one like a hole in the head. Farrell's original plan, combined with a policy of "make do and mend", would achieve far more, far more quickly, and substantially eliminate the need for lottery funding.

**DANCE:** Christopher Bowen finds plenty of festive treats in Paris, even if they don't come in the usual wrapping

## Anyone for sugar plum? Non!

The French "have no idea how to celebrate the festive season", sniffed a balletomane acquaintance when I mentioned the prospect of spending the holiday in Paris checking out the dance scene.

Well, I suppose if your idea of Christmas ballet programming begins and ends with *The Nutcracker*, *Cinderella* or one of the picturebook romps routinely rolled out for family consumption at this time of year, then to suggest an alternative must seem akin to sacrilege. But salvation is at hand for those more than a little weary of Snow Flake Fairies and pumpkin coaches: however, you will have to go to Paris to find it.

It's worth the trip. Last Christmas dance fans in the French capital could choose between Merve Cunningham at the Opera Garnier, and Paris Opera Ballet's full-length *Raymonda* at the Bastille. This year the choices have been even more seductive with (in a one-week period) Netherlands Dans Theatre at the Garnier, the designer-chic Ballet of Sanjai Juku at Théâtre de la Ville, the Junior Ballet of the Conservatoire de Paris sharing their stage with Israel's Ensemble Batsheva, and the Paris Opera Ballet performing Nureyev's versions of *La Bayadère* and *Don Quichotte*.

There's not a Sugar Plum in sight. Not that the dance on of-

fer isn't festive. Indeed, apart from the exotic glories of *La Bayadère* and the garlic-infused festa that is *Don Quichotte* (but more of them later), the Junior Ballet produced a programme that positively radiated good cheer.

Most of this, it has to be said, was generated by the dancers themselves rather than the choreography. But these young dancers are exceptional technicians, and the way they collectively submerge themselves in the styles of disparate choreographers is impressive indeed. They look especially good in extracts from Ohad Naharin's *Parti*, *Dance* and *Zachacha* — which they performed alongside Naharin's own "junior" Batsheva Ensemble — ripping through rubbery, loose-limbed step combinations with undisguised glee.

No doubt many of these apprentice dancers would look towards Netherlands Dans Theatre, rather than Paris Opera Ballet, as their career goal. And in Jiri Kylian's full-length *One of a Kind* it is possible to see just how far this marriage of classical training and modern dance idioms has been pushed. Kylian long ago moved beyond the surging flow of movement that so dis-

tinguished his early Romantic works like *Sinfonietta*; today his ballets are darker, the vocabulary more fractured. In many of his recent pieces Kylian has given the impression of a restless soul in search of something. In *One of a Kind* I think he may have found it. Set to live and recorded music by Brett Dean (which samples a clutch of composers, Britten and Cage among them) and placed within a series of beautiful structures by the Japanese architect Aisushi Kitagawa, *One of a Kind* showcases the individuality of NDT's remarkable dancers.

It is a piece packed with superb examples of athletic Kylian-esque virtuosity and exquisite doublework (these dancers appear to play each other like musical instruments), but there is a purity here that sets the piece apart. This is dance stripped to the bone, clean and clear and beautiful.

Not that laying on the ornamentation with a trowel is a bad thing. Look at Nureyev's productions of *Don Quichotte* and *La Bayadère* for Paris Opera Ballet. The richness of these stagings is remarkable to behold, whether in the detailed mime business for the

tavern crowds in Cervantes's boisterous tale, or the breathtaking sumptuousness of Ezio Frigerio and Franca Squacchiapino's designs for *La Bayadère*. Underpinning it all — as one would expect from this company — is dancing to die for with a sensitivity to every nuance of style few ballet ensembles can match: in the old Don's vision scene, the Dryads dance with majestic splendour, while the Opera Ballet's 32 Bayadères unfold their famously sustained arabesques into a snaking line of shimmering perfection.

Nor are the characters in these ballets merely ciphers for the dance, at the heart of *Don Quichotte*, Kiri and Basilio are brought vividly to life by Agnès Letestu and José Martínez, their deliciously long limbs carving up the air as they flirt and fight like any passionate Latin couple (Letestu's tomboyish interpretation is a particular delight). Of the two casts I saw in *La Bayadère*, it is Isabelle Guérin's Nikiya and Laurent Hilaire's Solor that appear to transcend

technique with the effortless poetry of their dancing, though Elizabeth Maurin and Kader Belarbi make a beautifully romantic couple.

The French don't know how to celebrate the festive season? The sight of Laurent Hilaire reclining atop a Rococo elephant in *La Bayadère* is surely festive enough for most folks.

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# Coward, back in the midday sun

The Master's voice still has a unique relevance, says Derwent May

Some years ago, my wife and I were at Covent Garden when we noticed Noël Coward in the Crush Bar. We were watching Joan Sutherland in *La Fille du Régiment*, where, in fine washbuckling style, she was singing Marie, the camp-follower who turns out to be the daughter of a great lady.

After the interval we saw Coward again, sitting alone in the row ahead of us. By now Marie was singing a song in her mother's drawing room. Her suspicious chaperone asked her what she was singing. "C'est un petit chanton de Noël Coward," Sutherland shot back.

Most of the audience probably did not notice, and of those who did, most must have been puzzled. But those who had spotted Coward greatly favoured this compliment thrown down to him in the stalls by one of his best friends — and one of the rare divas who would have been prepared to do it.

This year will be the centenary of Coward's birth in Teddington. 1999 will see many revivals of his plays and shows, notably on television and radio, and we shall have a chance to judge how many of them still work.

Bernard Shaw considered Coward his equal as a playwright, and some critics regard his plays as the best light comedies of the century. But for me Joan Sutherland got it right. It is those petits chansons of his that live.

He wrote them all his life, starting as a child. He said that the false rhyme of "Little Tommy Tucker" sings for his supper" rasped his sensibilities when he was still in infants' school. He poured songs out for his Cochrane revues, his musicals, his wartime tours to the Forces abroad and the last brilliant phase in his career when he was doing cabaret at the Café de Paris in the Fifties. Many of them were too slight to survive — but some are lyrical or comic masterpieces.

The earliest to make a mark were his prewar love songs, such as *The Party's Over Now*, like many of his love songs it is full of a strange, teasing ambiguity:

*The party's over now,  
The dawn is drawing nigh.  
The candles gutter,  
The starlight leaves the sky.  
It's time for little boys and girls  
To hurry home to bed,  
For there's a new day waiting just ahead.*

Is it sad that the party's over? Or was there something faintly wrong about it all? Is it bad or good news that there's a new day waiting just ahead? There is a hint here of the same tender moralising that we find in another famous Thirties song of his, *For Little Rich Girl*, with its witty, admonitory half-rhyme in its last line: "Poor little rich girl — don't drop a stitch too soon."

As for the more personal

love songs that he went on writing all his life, they can be full of haunting intimacies of happiness and bleakness. I travel alone boasts that "No remembered love can ever find me", and that "there's one illusion left to me, and that's the happiness I've known alone". (Even that, note, is an illusion.)

But some of the love songs are also among his most comic, highlighting his griefs by setting them against other considerations — such as *Any little fish can swim*:

*Any little dog and any little cat  
Can do a bit of this and then a bit of that,  
Any little horse can neigh,  
And any little cow moo —  
But I can't do anything at all  
But just love you.*

Here the library of carefree animal behaviour goes on getting more absurdly lewd from verse to verse.

How far these songs can work their magic when sung by other people is another thing we shall presumably find out next year. Coward felt his way into them completely from the inside, usually starting with a line of melody and letting the words shape themselves around it; he could hardly write or read music. And his singing wonderfully drags out or hastens out the rhythm for evocative or funny effect, hinting all the time at what is left unsaid.

Above all, of course, there was that strange voice of his, coming far from the back of his throat, as though he was leaning in on some secret lurking deep in his heart, but combined with rolling "r"s that gave you the option of thinking he was just a cheeky chappie. Teasing ambiguity again.

If his love songs made him the match (and the friend) of Cole Porter, his witty songs of society made him the match (and the friend) of John Betjeman. And perhaps it is these I really love best. He anticipated *Dad's Army* long before with his "Colonel Montmorency who/Was in Calcutta in '92" paving the way for Captain Mainwaring. Best of all is Coward's great comic vision of disaster. Bad times are just around the corner, with Britain in chaos and despair:

*From Colwyn Bay to Kettering  
They're sobbing themselves to sleep.  
The shrieks and wails  
In the Yorkshire Dales  
Have even depressed the sheep.  
In rather vulgar lettering  
A very disgruntled group  
Has posted bills  
On the Cotswold Hills  
To prove that we're in the soup.  
Hurrah-hurrah-hurrah!  
Suffering and dismay!*

To cheer ourselves up as recession looms, it's a song to rush out and bring home.

Peter Mandelson was doing nothing new — and his sacrifice leaves Blair exposed and vulnerable

When Harold Wilson resigned as Prime Minister, I was in Washington; when Peter Mandelson resigned from the Cabinet, I was in Paris. I seem to be unlucky in missing these important events. Yet, perhaps it is not such bad luck. If I had had to write on the Mandelson resignation the next day, I might well have joined the grave moralists and shared their horror that a man could borrow money from a friend to buy a house. I am certainly no Mandy cronies; I have only talked to him twice, once at a Ditchley conference and once at a dinner party of Carla Powell's.

Peter Mandelson remembers against me that I once compared him to Goebbels. I thought I had only compared him to Machiavelli. I was criticising him for the exaggerated Labour propaganda against Tony Blair, much of which was trivia. I did not intend to imply that he was a Nazi, which plainly he is not, but that he was a ruthless propagandist, which he is. If I have been around on the day he fell, I might easily have written a solemn piece, arguing that those who live by the sword, die by the sword, and so on.

It was the memory of Burke and Disraeli which made me reconsider the position. I suppose one could call them the master spin-doctors of the 18th and 19th centuries. In 1768, Edmund Burke bought Gregories, a good house with 600 acres, near Beaconsfield. Some of the £20,000 cost was raised on mortgage; some was probably lent by his party leader, Lord Rockingham. £1,000 may have come from David Garrick; perhaps £5,000 came from Lord Verney, though Burke denied it; some probably came from speculation in East India Company stock. The financing of the purchase was something of a scandal.

# The noble tradition of British risk-takers

Benjamin Disraeli bought his rather similar circumstances. Harold Macmillan told his biographer, George Hutchinson, the story in his racy style. "Shortly before Disraeli became leader of the party, the old Duke of Portland's sons, Lord George Bentinck and Lord Henry Bentinck, came to him and said: 'Father, there is only one man who can lead the Tory party — and he is a fancy little Jew.' 'Only a country gentleman can lead the Tory party,' said the Duke. 'We'll make him one.' The sons, straightaway, they bought Hughenden for Disraeli." Leaving aside the 19th-century anti-Semitism, the story is still embarrassing.

What was good enough for Burke and Disraeli, one might think would have been good enough for Mandelson. And did not Winston Churchill himself have some help from his friends in the purchase of Chartwell? And why not? If one looks back on the great men of modern British history, only those, such as Peel and Gladstone, who were born rich — and not all of them — seemed to have avoided financial embarrassment. Walpole was corrupt; Chatham built houses on money borrowed from his in-laws; Pitt the Younger was always on the edge of insolvency; Fox was a gambler and a spendthrift; even Salisbury needed a £5,000 loan from

his father in 1866 after the Overend and Gurney crash; Lloyd George went through the Marconi scandal and sold peerages.

No Walpole, no Chatham, no Burke, no Fox, no Pitt, no Disraeli, perhaps no Salisbury, no Lloyd George, no Churchill — that would have made quite a difference to British history. It would have meant no British Empire, and that we would probably have lost the Seven Years War to Louis XV, the Napoleon-

extremity. Pleas'd with the danger, when the waves went high. He sought the storms; but for a calm unlit, would steer too high the sands to boat his wit."

The great politicians who changed the world have to be risk-takers; they often have a manic energy. They can be tempted to a lifestyle they cannot afford, just as great entrepreneurs take financial risks in building their business empire. So long as they behave legally, politicians should not be made to resign for buying houses they cannot afford or for borrowing from their friends.

Tony Blair was wrong to request or accept Peter Mandelson's resignation. He did not allow enough for human nature. He was not loyal enough. That mistake may well destroy the Blair project. A year or two before he died, I remember lunching with Hugh Gaiskell, an earlier Labour leader who wanted to reform his party. He told me, almost with despair, that his reform would have been possible if only he had had the reliable support of a single senior colleague; he could not trust Harold Wilson, or George Brown, or any of the other Labour leaders of real weight. This terrible isolation has now descended on Tony Blair. Gordon Brown and John Prescott are conspiring against him; Jack Straw is an ally, but is also an obvious candidate for the succession.

Tony Blair seems to have lost control of the Government; it even seems that he cannot get rid of Charles Whelan, though he cannot afford not to. Yet, it is almost certain that Mr Mandelson's resignation was not an unfortunate accident, but a deliberate assassination. Somebody gave the story of the Robinson loan to Paul Routledge; Paul is an excellent journalist, but he was not given the story because of that. He was given it by somebody who wanted to destroy Mandelson and damage Blair. Paul will never reveal his source, but everyone knows he has excellent contacts in the Gordon Brown camp.

In some ways, Mr Mandelson was the ablest member of the Labour Cabinet; he was a major architect of new Labour. Without him, the project would never have had such an extraordinary triumph. He has left just at the point when the project is about to be tested by events and by the elections. Europe, Scotland, Wales and local government. Inside the Labour Party, the resistance to Blairism was already growing; it is still emotionally a party of the Left.

Mr Mandelson's resignation suggests that Mr Blair may be too weak to be a successful Prime Minister. Viscount Cranborne laid a trap for William Hague and Hague fired him. Gordon Brown (or his friends) laid a trap for Tony Blair, and Blair fired Mandelson. Hague knows how a leader has to survive a crisis; Tony Blair got that wrong. At the moment of decision, he flinched; that usually proves fatal. When King Charles I signed Strafford's death warrant, he was also signing his own. No Prime Minister can afford to banish his friends in order to appease his enemies.

# Year of the constitution

Labour has not addressed the central dilemma of government, says Tim Hames

Very few safe predictions can be made about politics in the 12 months ahead, but one of the better prospects is that the debate about the constitution will become more intense. Elections and their aftermath in Scotland and Wales, the formation (one hopes) of a viable devolved executive in Northern Ireland, the first stage of Lords reform, preparations for the introduction of the Human Rights Bill incorporating the European Convention on Human Rights, legislation for a mayor of London — all present an enormous agenda. And all that without the small matter of the euro, which will have constitutional consequences for us whether we participate or not.

This avalanche of activity will be opposed outright by the Conservative Party. The Tories have already accused Tony Blair of "constitutional vandalism" and deployed the old dictum of "if it ain't broke, don't fix it". More subtle members of the Shadow Cabinet have taken a different tack and argued instead for an "evolutionary, rather than revolutionary" approach to reform. These are positions with which the public may come to sympathise, particularly if the Scottish vote suggests that devolution is but a pipstove to an acrimonious divorce between England and Scotland.

They are not, though, particularly persuasive. Labour inherited a constitution that was broken and did require fixing. During two decades of Tory rule the old order had been transformed by the Single European Act and the Maastricht treaty, and local government was marginalised by a Whitehall machine under the complete occupation of the Treasury. The same cult of centralisation had



spawned side-effects as diverse as renewed Scottish nationalism and a more radicalised judiciary. And, just at the moment when many thought that a confident, challenging second chamber was becoming more necessary, the House of Lords appeared more anachronistic than ever.

The Government was, therefore, right to recognise that constitutional renewal was a compelling priority. However, change through "evolutionary reform" is unlikely to be enough. As in biology, a new order is often achieved through quite sudden distinctive bursts, usually brought on by some outside shock, before returning to a relatively settled situation.

That has been the story of the British constitution through the centuries. Several periods of upheaval — Magna Carta, the Reformation, the

Civil War, the Glorious Revolution, the Great Reform Bill of 1832 and the epic struggle between the Commons and the Lords that culminated with the Parliament Act of 1911 — were followed by calm.

Those who implemented change were invariably accused of operating without much thought for longer-term consequences. The accusations were almost always true — but the British tradition of ad hoc answers and muddling through becomes quite appealing when compared with the continental tradition of constitutional reform through coup, revolt, revolution or conquest.

The most powerful change against this Government is that it has never stated coherently what it considers to be the problems for which it is seeking solutions. This is, in truth,

because an honest collection of answers would not be especially attractive to many in the Cabinet. The real source of constitutional instability over the past 25 years has been a three-pronged process of centralisation: of power within Whitehall itself favouring the inner executive and not Cabinet, Parliament or citizens; of local political and financial autonomy being lost to Whitehall; and of vast portions of policy being removed from British institutions and handed to European bodies that are inimical to our traditions.

The Government is responding only partially to this need for change. The setting up of a Scottish parliament acknowledges the sense of alienation north of the border, but its limited tax-raising powers suggest decentralised administration, rather

than delegated authority. Present proposals also fail to appreciate that the residents of Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester and Newcastle feel at least as dominated and patronised by London as the Scots or Welsh. No constitutional solution can succeed if it fails to appreciate that decentralisation within England is an enormous part of the equation. Regional assemblies are not the answer.

The Government has rightly addressed Lords reform — but in a manner that implies that it is more worried about the numbers of Tories and Tories endorsed there than by the need for stronger checks and balances over the executive. Lords reform has also proceeded apace with little linkage to the inalienable state of the Commons. The Human Rights Bill has been enacted without reference to the appointment system for senior judges, or, as the *Hoffmann* case exposed, the need for formal rules governing their conduct. Not only has the Government failed to align an instinct for constitutional change at home with its European policy but it has adopted the incredible notion that there are no significant constitutional implications in the decision whether or not to join EMU.

The missing position in British politics is for a party willing to combine a serious commitment to substantial constitutional reform — restoring checks and balances on the executive and substantial decentralisation within the whole country — with an advanced scepticism about the entire direction of the European adventure. The Liberal Democrats' approach to constitutional change is not aimed at rebalancing the British tradition, but is instead an attempt to make it easier for the UK to integrate within the EU. The Labour Party seems unsure about which way it wants to travel and may end up emulating Paddy Ashdown's party.

In theory, the Tories, if they recaptured a sense of their own history and stopped worshipping at the altar of Treasury control, could seize the initiative. Unfortunately, one of the other safer predictions for 1999 is that they are most unlikely to do so.

# Could be Yule

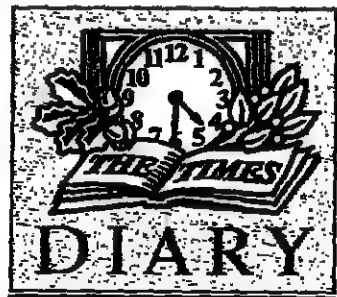
AT LAST, one of Parliament's most dedicated bachelors is to throw away his little black book. I gather that the puppyish Charles Kennedy, darling of the nut-roast matrons of the Liberal Democrats, is to marry. And this time his number is certainly up: his intended works for Camelot, the lottery outfit. Sarah Gurdling is a vivacious, and senior, trailer in the company's government relations department. Kennedy has been deploying his jowly charm and Highland ways on her for some time. The cheery couple are a familiar sight in the Commons Strangers Bar. He is believed to have asked Sarah during a Christmas break at his croft in Fort William.

"They expect to make a formal announcement later this year," confides a friend. But I am sure Charles will forgive my haste in breaking the good news. His friends say his intentions were clarified when he was best man for Malcolm Bruce, his colleague, last May. "The look in his eye said 'It could be you'," recalls the friend. Less romantic souls will also note that the union will assist Kennedy if he challenges for the party leadership. I have one reservation: will Charles have to declare an interest when he speaks on the lottery after the wedding?

WHO is the female companion lorry drivers would most like to share their cab with on the long



and lonely night of the millennium: Melinda Messenger (above left)? Sam Fox? Or even *Relatively Posh Spice*, for the more aspirant trucker? Nope. The Princess Royal, who once expressed regrets that she had not pursued a career as a lorry driver. An imaginative choice. I grant you, but perhaps a little more varied that opening village fêtes. A spoke at the Road Haulage Association, which conducted a nationwide poll, welcomes this



choice: "She works hard and best of all, she knows how to handle a truck. A logical choice."

## Scotched

COLOMBIAN drug smugglers have turned their hand to Scotch whisky. British Customs officers are advising the Colombian Government on how to stem the illegal spirits flooding into their country. It seems that moustachioed types do more than just shower these shores with white, powdery substances — while they are over here they pick up a few fine malts and smuggle them back home. Such treats are in demand — 87 per cent of the whisky drunk in the country is imported illegally, most of it Caledonian, in a black-market trade that is worth £37 million a year to my volatile friends. "We are

talking to their Government to devise ways to stop it," gurgles a thirsty sniffer dog.

FEBRUARY should see the crowning of a new Princess of Wales. Mary Winbury, the BBC's head of public affairs, is to marry Taliesin Michael, Alun Michael's boy, at Cardiff Castle, a week after the February election to decide who is to be the First Minister of Wales. If Michael becomes King, Wales will see the emergence of a new dynasty able to rival the family of Ffion Hague. The best of luck.

## Pot luck

ATHESIS knocked off by a Khmer Rouge leader has been deleted by the Sorbonne. Khieu Samphan, one of Pol Pot's former hunkies, who has defected to the Cambodian Government, underwent an sociological PhD, which suggested emptying Cambodia's parasitical cities, at the Parisian grove in 1959. Now France has called for the country's war criminals to be tried, the Diary Towers archivist can find no trace of the work at the university.

NEW YEAR may have been raucous; next year's could be more so. Sting, a singer, tells me "I keep being offered gigs in ludicrous places. The locations are even more

outlandish than the ancient holy site of Machu Picchu in Peru."

## Banana split

BILL CLINTON has swapped cigars for bananas. The President took time out from his domestic problems to engage Sir Leon Brittan in a fierce debate over fruit. The United States wants a punitive import tax on Europe's bananas and after failing to resolve the dispute, Sir Leon, the European Commissioner, expressed his frustration: "The only thing that makes



"Oh bad luck... the darned thing's still there"

this discussion almost tolerable is listening to you pronounce 'bonanas'." I'm sure Clinton was equally delighted to gaze at Brittan.

TWO unlikely bedfellows: Simon Wiesenthal and Quentin Crisp, who have both just turned 90. While dear old Simon attributes his longevity to hunting jackboots, Mr Crisp is more pragmatic: "I never, never work. Work does age you so." So I have been told.

## Cast aside

AFTER my disclosure that Christina Odone fantasised about being stranded on a desert island with Peter Mandelson, I am not surprised about her maudlin taste in literature. The Roman Catholic writer, who has spurned the attentions of my friend John Humphrys, says her favourite book last year was *Falling Slowly*, by Anita Brookner. "A poignant study of wrong-headed romanticism and the loneliness it can induce. Brookner's melancholic heroines always strike a chord." My advice? Give up on politicians and newscasters.

## Blood money

JOANNE GUEST, the untidying clothes horse, is trying to break into



films, and needs your kind donations. Ms Guest (above with admirer) is feeling her age as a "glamour model" so has signed up to play the heroine in something called *Scattered*, a jolly vampire romp. Trouble is, the production company, Dead Red, is £6,000 short and is appealing for cash. My brother Owen pleads: please give generously.

A NEW fast-food joint is waiting for passing trade (and Ron Davies) on Clapham Common. Its inviting name? "Chicken Cottage." Briq.

JASPER GERARD





## PERILOUS PETITIONS

A time to save the grammar school, not sign it away

For many parents with a child at state school, this year promises unrest, instability and dispute. The cause of this gloomy prophecy is the Government's policy to abolish the 164 remaining grammar schools, ignoring all arguments against what is a vindictive and damaging measure designed to set parent against parent, ministers have surrendered to old Labour dogma. The power to preserve these beacons of excellence now rests with parents themselves. Before they put their name to a petition calling for the end of selection in local schools, they should think hard about the consequences.

Kent County Council runs a fifth of the nation's grammar schools. As we report today, if Kent's parents vote to end selection, the council will need to restructure much of the county's education system. This could cost about £150 million, which the council will need to find itself. The Government has already said it will not be providing any extra money to cover the cost of grammar schools' abolition. Parents should ask themselves: would this money not be better spent on failing schools, on books, teachers and new equipment, rather than on destabilising thousands of children's education?

The opponents of grammar schools claim that selection is unfair, and results in "educational apartheid". They argue that children who fail to get into a grammar school are consigned to "sink" schools, where they are deprived of the education they deserve and risk being labelled a failure, sapping their confidence. It would be fairer, according to these egalitarians, to treat every child the same, by giving them the same opportunities.

Persuasive though this argument might be to some, it suffers from the fatal flaw of

being quite removed from reality. All children are unique, with their own set of skills, strengths and weaknesses. A fully comprehensive, monochrome system, that provides the same education for every child, cannot cater for the wide range of ability that exists. Diversity of talent should be reflected by diversity of provision. It is worth noting that 10 per cent fewer English and Welsh pupils gain five or more A-C grades in their GCSEs than do their counterparts in Northern Ireland, which has an almost fully selective system. Where teaching is matched to the abilities of the children, all pupils gain.

There are pockets of educational failure in England and Wales where the only choice is between underperforming schools. Yet parents should not be lulled into blaming this on the existence of grammar schools: the culprits are more likely to be inadequate teachers and poor management. Instead of levelling down standards by smothering the pinnacles of achievement, they should be exhorting their councils to do more to raise standards in failing schools. Until this happens, the destruction of grammar schools will pose parents with bright children a stark choice: to risk the local comprehensive or opt out by sending their offspring to an independent school. Why should they suffer this fate?

Left-wing ideologues might well rejoice at the abolition of grammar schools. But their actions will harm those whom they most claim to help, the children themselves. Money will be wasted on reorganising schools; parental choice will be restricted; children's education will be disrupted and their opportunities hindered, not widened. Parents should consider these consequences before signing any petition on a grammar school's future.

## DEMOCRACY'S TYCOON

The Magellan of the Net exemplifies the Nineties

If the charting of outer space was a voyage of discovery which inspired modern Magellans in the third quarter of this century, the past decade has been dominated by the colonisation of cyberspace. The scientific creativity which once clustered around the NASA bases of America's South East has been eclipsed by the technological fecundity of California's Silicon Valley. And the pioneer who has helped millions to make the new world of the Internet their own is a Stanford University dropout who became a billionaire before he was 30. Jerry Yang, the co-founder of Yahoo!, the Internet search engine, is democracy's tycoon.

The Internet is, in essence, no more than another communications network, the latest descendant of Marconi, Bell and Logie Baird's brainchildren. But its potential, to transform society and bewilder the beginner, is altogether greater. A few key strokes allow any individual access to a greater library of information than any scholar has hitherto dreamt of. The sheer scale of the Internet makes it imperative to find a trusted guide through the electronic souk. Yahoo! provides that guide, acting as a living gazetteer and endlessly renewable map.

Yahoo! (which stands for Yet Another Hierarchical Official Oracle) grew out of the leisurely exploration of the Net indulged in by Jerry Yang and his friend David Filo while they were both finding reasons not to work on their doctorates at Stanford University. Messrs Filo and Yang pooled their knowledge of the most

interesting sites on the Net in a catalogue which they, in turn, put on the Net for the use of their friends.

The quality of their directory was such that they were soon inundated by requests from individuals and companies who wished to be included. After harnessing the advice of business-literate friends, the two men dropped out of university, set up their catalogue as a company, charged for advertising and became billionaires last year. Their success sets the tone for the next economic revolution. Among the barriers dissolved by the Internet are those to entry in the burgeoning markets of the future. Information has become the most important commodity traded worldwide. But in the writer of information available, the most valuable possession is a reputation for trustworthiness in the organisation and interpretation of new material.

Jerry Yang has become a tycoon through the democratisation of this medium. But he is also democracy's tycoon in another sense. The freedom of America, its willing embrace of the new and its distrust of closed hierarchies made Mr Yang's success possible. It is only when the free society and the free market are entwined, like the double helix of DNA, in intimate embrace that man's capacity to create and grow is greatest. That lesson, embedded in the story of Mr Yang's entrepreneurial success, should be at the forefront of every mind as we look back upon a century in which democracy has secured hard-fought victories but has difficult battles yet to win.



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## COLLECTION DAYS

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To a child with few opportunities at home, what greater gift could there be than the chance to escape to a different world? A good education offers long-term escape: a wonderful book affords instant flight to other times, places, people and plights. The beauty of The Times's Free Books for Schools scheme, launched today, is that, by encouraging children to enter now into the joy of reading, it may help to produce a generation of more literate, better educated young people in the future.

The scale of this enterprise is immense. In cooperation with other titles owned by News International — The Sunday Times, The Sun and the News of the World — and Walker, the publishers of the book, some one billion tokens will be issued between now and the end of March. If all were cashed in, schools around Britain would be able to order between two and ten million free books. There are 150 titles to choose from, ranging from Judith Kerr's *The Tiger Who Came to Tea* to James Joyce's *Dubliners*.

Here is a chance for readers to make a real difference. Head teachers will encourage parents to collect and contribute. But even outside the narrow school community, there is ample goodwill to be tapped. As we report today, many City firms are already planning to collect tokens and hand them on to nearby schools.

No school can ever have enough books, and some have far too few. Years of financial stringency have taken their toll on school libraries. For children with book-lined walls at home, such deprivation can

be offset. But for those who cannot slake their thirst to join the world of the imagination, this scheme offers a great new start.

Reading is an enthusiasm that can easily be instilled. The age of computers does not, as some pessimists insist, foretell the death of the book. Far from it. Whatever the achievements of Jerry Yang and his followers, the computer and the written word are not competitive (as books and television are) but complementary. Children cannot become truly computer-literate until they are truly literate. And even playing games on a laptop encourages the very habits of solitude, silence, concentration and sitting still that are part of curling up with a book.

But who ever heard of curling up with a computer? The hardware is still too cumbersome, the screen too flickery, for reading at a computer to be a relaxing experience. Indeed most people, when they find a mass of information on the Internet, will print it out for ease of hand and eye. Publishers moved from scrolls to pages almost two thousand years ago; computers have yet to match that convenience.

So books have a long life left. And each one ordered for a school can enrich many individual human lives. Covered in sticky-backed plastic, the corners of their pages dog-eared, today's books will remain in their libraries for a decade or two to come. Collect avidly, please — and help to bring new words to this generation of children and their successors.

## CPS strength is in its independence

From Mr John S. Walker

Sir, After eight years as a salaried Crown Prosecution Service lawyer, I believe that your correspondents' day are unduly pessimistic (see also letters, December 8 and 17).

There is now no serious argument against a single independent national prosecuting authority, locally delivered. Essential to that independence is the independent-mindedness of the individual prosecutor. That quality is already exercised daily in the "wham-bam" (Mr B. H. Slater's words) of the magistrates' court and is also applied there to "fine points of law".

In my experience salaried prosecutors are not now swayed from that duty by performance targets or prospects of promotion and there is no reason to think they will be in the future. Respectful fear of the judiciary will have a much more powerful effect than any performance target.

Also essential to that independence is adequate resources. Lack of which is the source of Mr John Snell's perceived "increasing sloppiness" in case preparation. (The independent barrister is no bulwark against that, merely a victim.)

Obviously, looking at discontinuance, acquittal and conviction rates is one useful monitor of efficiency; but I can assure Professor Zander that I have never seen pressure of this kind used to affect individual case decision-making, nor should it be. If you use a plumber, whether self-employed or salaried, who always leaves the pipes leaking you think twice about continuing to use him.

A further essential, I suggest, is a mobile profession. (I have a philosophical bias against lifelong prosecutors.) More criminal advocates need to move from prosecuting to defending and vice versa, at all levels. Crown Court rights of audience are necessary for that, as are more flexible policies on recruitment and conditions of service. Mixing of experience can only improve both advocacy and Crown Court preparation.

Let us have both Crown Court rights and a vigorous independent profession!

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN S. WALKER,  
Shepherd's Pasture,  
3 Chancery Close, Lincoln LN6 8SD.  
December 29.

From Mr Paul Randolph

Sir, Since gaining independence in the early Nineties, the newly emerging Central and Eastern European states have been steadily discarding their former Soviet-type laws and procedures and rebuilding new democratic legal infrastructures. In this process they have looked to the English legal system, which they hold in high esteem, for inspiration and guidance.

I am aware that lawyers throughout the Baltic States and Hungary, whether judges, attorneys or state prosecutors, all look in awe and admiration at the independence of the English Bar and a system which enables barristers to prosecute one day and defend the next. They are equally amazed that we appear to be moving towards a system which they have been striving ardently to relinquish.

Yours sincerely,  
PAUL RANDOLPH,  
(Chairman, British Estonian Latvian Lithuanian Law Association)  
Vice Chairman, British Hungarian Law Association,  
New Court, Temple EC4Y 9BE.  
December 29.

## Pig farmers' plight

Mr Paul Cross

Sir, I want to thank The Times for its support of the pig industry over the last six months. You have featured articles on the current plight of pig farmers and your leader on December 19, "Eat pig for Christmas", shows your increasing concern for this very hard-working group of people. There is no doubt that they are all suffering badly at the moment.

When a break-even point of around 85p per kilo is needed and today prices are around 60p, a loss on a 100-bacon pig load would be £1,750. When we have seen prices of just 45p per kilo a couple of months ago whilst supermarkets were charging upwards of £1.80 per lb (approximately £3.90 per kilo) for English bacon, it sums up the unfairness of it all. Someone does seem to be making money out of this disaster.

British pig farmers have tried to take a decisive lead in improving the welfare of their stock but this, in turn, has only added to their production costs compared with overseas producers. If supermarkets say they would like to see more welfare-friendly systems, then they should start paying British pig farmers a premium, not forcing us out of business.

Yours faithfully,  
PAUL CROSS  
(Manager),  
Cotswold Research and Development Centre,  
Wye, Kent TN25 5DF.  
December 29.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.  
e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## School holidays eat into term-time

The Reverend Andrew Bryant

Sir, How strange that a Government committed to promoting the strengths of family life should urge travel companies to issue warnings against parents taking their children on holiday during term-time (report, December 30). What evidence is there that one or two weeks out of school will damage their education? If the national curriculum cannot cope with a temporary absence, shouldn't a greater flexibility be built into the system?

When many families are spending less time together, the educational potential of simply learning to get on with one another on a shared holiday provides plenty of scope for personal and social development.

We have four children under ten, and financially could not take them away during the "peak" times of half-term and August. Most travel companies add excessive premiums then, thus discriminating against teachers as well as families.

Perhaps the School Standards Minister, Estelle Morris, could address this, rather than issue warnings in travel brochures or urge head teachers not to allow absences for a wholesome family break.

Yours faithfully,  
ANDREW BRYANT,  
54 Fairholme Avenue,  
Romford, Essex RM2 5UX.  
andrew.bryant@btinternet.com  
December 30.

From Mr Desmond High

Sir, I put the children's (state) school dates on the calendar yesterday, and these more or less rule out the prospect of a two-week break at any time other than during the six-week summer period.

With a full week at half-term and the Easter break starting on Wednesday, March 20 (back on Monday, April 12), is it any wonder that some parents are removing their children during term-time? With fewer options for the timing of holidays, it is no surprise that it creates a vicious spiral in demand at key times — with price increases to match.

## Election turnout

From Mr Ronald Forrest

Sir, Your report (December 29) that the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, has announced that there is to be a "powerful body" to spearhead a drive to raise the low level of turnout in elections reveals once again how out of touch many politicians are with the attitudes of ordinary voters.

There are two main reasons why so many people feel it is not worthwhile to vote. They believe, as Matthew Parris pointed out in his report of December 24, that politicians are all the same once they get into power; and they believe that there are too many elections.

Ron Davies, Geoffrey Robinson and Peter Mandelson are certainly making a fine job of confirming voters in their beliefs about politicians. As for the number of elections, the addition to the list of various invitations to visit the polling stations for elections to the Scottish parliament, the Welsh assembly, regional assemblies (in all probability) and of a London mayor, as well as for several referendums, must serve to reduce the average turnout further. Moreover, the de-personalised, party-list form of PR will hardly add voter appeal to the elections to the European Parliament.

Mr Straw's proposed powerful body will not overcome the conviction which many unfortunately hold that party politics is irrelevant and boring. His party is causing the yawns to become even longer.

Yours faithfully,  
RONALD FORREST  
(Chairman, South West Wales Area Conservative Council),  
Delfryn, Castle Morris,  
Haverfordwest,  
Pembrokeshire SA62 5ER.  
December 29.

## Peace in Cyprus

From Mr Osman Sreeter

Sir, At a seminar in Oxford last September on the exchange of populations between Greece and Turkey in 1923, representatives of both sides — and particularly the Greeks present — agreed that the exchange, by creating two essentially monoethnic, monocultural countries, promoted lasting stability in the region.

So when you call, as you do in the wake of the Cyprus 3000 missile fiasco (leading article, "Back from the brink", December 31), for a "statesmanlike response" from Turkey, you should be aware that your interpretation of statesmanship is in many ways alien to that part of the world.

It may be wildly politically incorrect in Western Europe, with its post-colonial guilt and its emphasis on integration. But at the other end of the Mediterranean, the cause of peace is best served by separating mutually hostile people — the situation which has obtained peacefully in Cyprus since 1974.

Yours faithfully,  
OSMAN STREETER,  
Smyth Club,  
69 Brook Street, W1Y 2ER.  
osmanstreeter@hotmail.com  
December 31.

Perhaps those who blame parents for their irresponsibility might first look at the alternatives for those on a limited budget, or who wish to enjoy a relaxing break somewhere that is not over-run.

Yours faithfully,  
DESMOND HIGH,  
556 Loose Road,  
Loose, Maidstone,  
Kent ME15 9UR.  
desmondhigh@compuserve.com  
December 30.

From Mrs J. M. Williams

Sir, Surely the simple answer is for schools to stagger the spring and summer breaks?

Why do they have to take two weeks at Easter, a week in May and between five and seven weeks in summer? Why not three weeks at Easter, two weeks in May, or even a week in June (the old Lancashire mill-town holiday), staggering the summer break with perhaps a month in July for some schools, mid-July to mid-August for others?

Demand would even out for holiday companies, with less crowded beaches in August.

The downside would be no guarantee of child-free zones for those of us not saddled with school holidays.

Yours faithfully,  
JOAN M. WILLIAMS,  
Bridge House,  
Goosrey, Cheshire CW4 8PZ.  
scoop2001@aol.com  
December 30.

From Mr Philip R. Matthews

Sir, Lower cost is not the only reason why parents take holidays during schooltime. Many big companies allow only a certain percentage of staff to take annual holidays during school holidays, especially the long summer break — which may leave staff who want to go away as a family no choice in the matter.

Yours faithfully,  
PHILIP R. MATTHEWS,  
71 Shaftesbury Road,  
Wilton, Salisbury SP2 0DU.  
phil6061@aol.com  
December 30.

## Church and community

From the Archdeacon of Lancaster

Sir, Dominic Kennedy's statement that at midnight on December 31, 1999, 100 churches will celebrate the millennium by ringing bells "paid for by the Millennium Commission" (report, December 30) tells only part of the story.

The commission has indeed facilitated a welcome chance for many churches to restore their bells. But these projects would have been impossible without the dedication and enthusiasm of ringers and congregations. Most of them have been fostered by loyal bellringers over many years prior to the present grants and would not have been achieved, even supported by the grants, without the hard work locally.

I also take issue with Mr Kennedy's odd notion that somehow, by virtue of the millennium, "Churches will be restored to the heart of community life". The report *Still in the City*, published ten years after the seminal *Faith in the City* report of 1985, shows that the Church is frequently among the very small number of agencies working with the inner-city communities. Similarly, the support given by rural churches to farmers in adversity, for instance, and to village shops threatened with closure has shown these churches to be fundamental to the way of life of Britain's countryside.

Surely, the Church can rightly claim to be at the very heart of the community into the millennium and beyond.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT LADDS,  
Archdeacon of Lancaster,  
St Michael's House,  
Hall Lane, St Michael's-on-Wyre,  
Preston PR3 0TQ.  
December 30.

## Services rendered

From Father Paul James

Sir, I have followed with fascination the correspondence concerning recommending doctors who assist at medical crises on aircraft (letters, December 15 and 31). They are not the only professional group who are called upon in time of need.

Whilst I was on a flight to Jamaica a few years ago, a call for a member of the medical profession was met with no response. Some forty minutes later I received a discreet request for my attendance at the rear of the cabin to attend a passenger who had died during the flight. This was followed by nearly four hours of sitting with the deceased family until we landed and the authorities took over.

I notice that the *Table of Parochial Fees*, recently published by the Church Commissioners, covers funeral rites in churches, churchyards and crematoria, but has inexplicably omitted jumbo jets.

In secula seculorum,  
PAUL JAMES,  
210 Markhouse Road, E17 8EP.  
jrpauljames@compuserve.com  
January 2.

## Baseball's first joyful steps

From Lieutenant-Colonel R. K. Cooley

Sir, Further to John Goodbody's report on baseball (December 26), my understanding is that *A Little Pretty Pocket Book*, published in London in 1744, contained the following verse, headed "Base-ball":

The ball once struck off,  
Away flies the boy,  
To the next destined post,  
And then home again with joy.

The Boston publication Goodbody mentioned was Robin Carver's *Book of Sports*, which referred to the game as base, or goal ball. The first formal baseball rules were drawn up in 1845 by a surveyor, Alexander Cartwright, and drew heavily on Carver; a lot of the original code is still a part of baseball law.

Baseball was an amateur sport until the Cincinnati Reds turned professional in 1869. Their instant domination of the game led to the formation of the first professional league, the National Association, in 1871. It perished in 1875 in a welter of gambling, bribery, intimidation and corruption, to be followed by the present-day National and, in 1901, American leagues.

Yours faithfully,  
REG COOLEY,  
50 School Lane,  
Fulford, York YO10 4LS.  
December 27.

From Mr Guy Jackson

Sir In *Norhanger Abbey*, chapter 1, Jane Austen describes Catherine Morland as preferring "base ball", cricket, etc. to books. It was written in 1797-98, although not published until 1818.

The author would not have referred to a sport unfamiliar to her readers so presumably it had been around for some time. Is this a coincidental linking of two different sports, or does it, more probably, indicate a direct connection between our earlier ball and the later baseball?

Yours faithfully,  
GUY JACKSON,  
4 Addison Crescent, W14 8JP.  
December 28.

## Pleasant response

From Mrs Joy Breckwoldt

Sir, My advice to Mr Pat Buckley, who complains that his enjoyment of reading *The Times* is frustrating the plans he made for his retirement (letter, December 29), is to re-employ his teaching experience. If it timetables his day carefully, his ambitions to succeed in music, literature and art will fit neatly around longer than normal playtimes in which he can enjoy all the pleasures of his newspaper.

Mrs Buckley's adjustment to his retirement may have to be more in the area of sharing those pleasures.

Yours faithfully,  
JOY BRECKWOLDT,  
The Vicarage, 30 Cross Street,  
Moulton, Northampton NN3 7RZ.  
peterbreckwoldt@compuserve.com

From Mrs S. R. B. Wood

Sir, I am a fellow-sufferer. My husband has also recently left his job. He had great intentions of how to occupy himself, such as becoming computer-literate, landscaping the garden, even building a barbecue. Unfortunately a major part of his day is spent doing the *Times* crossword. I am told that when working he used to complete it. When did he have the time?

For myself I have had to find other ways to occupy myself, such as how to get my hands on the paper.

Yours faithfully,  
CLARE WOOD,  
Brookfield Farmhouse,  
Warrhill, York YO19 5UJ.  
clare.brockfield@btinternet.com  
January 1.

## Ex-celebs

From Mr C. Tudball

Sir, I was going to put together a New Year's Deletion of Celebrity Status List of those who have ceased to be famous and whom we can forget as Mr Peter Harland (letter, December 31) suggested. But, try as I may, I just cannot seem to remember anyone who is worthy of being included in it.

Yours faithfully,  
CHRIS TUDBALL,  
28 Larchfields,  
Wolston, Coventry CV8 3JL.  
crudball@aol.com  
January 1.

From Mr M. S. Evans

Sir, Many years ago I attended a dinner in London which was addressed by A. P. Herbert. He described the great pleasure he derived from living in retirement by the Thames at Hammersmith, which included listening to the description of notable landmarks being broadcast from the pleasure boats which travelled up and down the river.

On one occasion he heard the broadcaster say: "On our right, ladies and gentlemen, is the home of Sir Alan Herbert, who used to be a famous man."

Yours faithfully,  
MARK EVANS,  
Manor House, Brompton by Sawdon,  
Scarborough YO13 9DJ.  
January 1.







## OBITUARIES

## THE RIGHT REV RONALD GOODCHILD

The Right Rev Ronald Goodchild, Suffragan Bishop of Kensington, 1964-88, died on December 28 aged 88. He was born on October 17, 1910.

Ronnie Goodchild — that is how he was known throughout his ministry, bishop or not — was a master at ensuring that useful things happened, though always in a typically unobtrusive Church of England manner. The variety of jobs he did, from school chaplain to suffragan bishop, gave full scope to his great pastoral gifts, which he exercised unflinchingly.

Ronald Cedric Osbourne Goodchild was born in Australia, the son of a clergyman who had been a Bush Brother before marrying and who later became vicar of Turnham Green in West London; the family returned to England when Ronnie was six. From St John's School, Leatherhead, he went up to Trinity College, Cambridge, where he took a second in both parts of the History Tripos and later a third in theology.

He then spent two years as an assistant master at Bickley Hall School in Kent before training for the ministry at Bishop's College, Chesham. Ordained by Bishop Winnington Ingram, he became a curate in 1935 at St Mary's, Ealing, thus gaining West London experience which was to prove useful in later years when he returned to the area as Suffragan Bishop of Kensington.

In 1937 he became chaplain at Oakham School, where he was a sympathetic figure, popular with the boys. He published *Daily Prayer at Oakham School* in 1938.

Much to his headmaster's displeasure, he volunteered for the RAF as a chaplain in 1942; his father was already serving. He flew on bombing raids, was twice mentioned in dispatches, and on one occasion had to entertain Winston Churchill on his own for half an hour during an alert.

After D-Day he went to France with a wing of Typhoon fighters. He remained in the RAF until 1946, then spent a further three years in Germany as Warden of St Michael's House, Hamburg, involved in educational work with young Germans who had grown up under Nazism.

He enjoyed a natural rapport with young people, and he continued to work with them on his return to



Goodchild: rapport with the young, whether as school chaplain or bishop

England in 1949, becoming Schools Secretary of the then thriving Student Christian Movement, a position he held until 1953; for the last two of those years he was also priest-in-charge of the City of London parish of St Helen's, Bishopsgate with St Martin Church. From 1953 to 1959 he was vicar of Horsham in Sussex, and from 1954 rural dean. He worked hard, building a fine team of clergy. As ever keen on youth work, he formed Horsham Boys' Club, as well as a cricket team. He also proved an effective and innovative fundraiser.

At the invitation of Robert Stopford, then Bishop of Peterborough, Goodchild became Archdeacon of Northampton in 1959 and later rector of Eton. He arranged for Eton rectory to become the diocesan retreat house on his departure, was greatly committed to ecumenism, and worked all hours in the archdeaconry. Stopford

became Bishop of London in 1961, and three years later called Goodchild to be Suffragan Bishop of Kensington.

In West London the same pastoral ministry went on, allied to innovation. He had in the early 1950s become involved with the Parish and People movement, and retained a strong interest in developing new forms of worship and revising parochial life. Now he was instrumental in initiatives such as the Heathrow airport chaplaincy. He also gave much valuable help to parish clergy.

His disarming manner was often evident. In Notting Hill, for instance, where the clergy were concerned to build good relationships between the black community and the police, he opened one meeting with prayer, saying that he was "first in to bat", a remark perhaps more redolent of Oakham than the Portobello Road but one likely to endear him all the same to any West Indian cricket lovers present. On another occasion, celebrating Communion in a parish church, he said to the congregation: "The Lord is here."

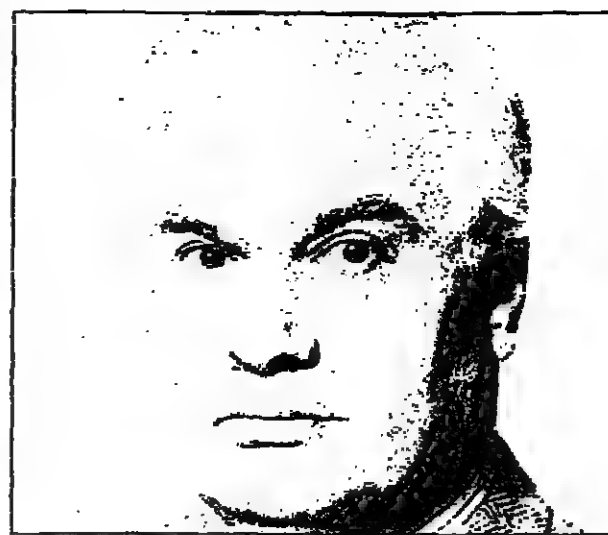
Meeting with no congregational response, he turned to the server with the words: "He is here, isn't He?" The offer of a diocese did not come his way. He served for 16 years in Kensington. During those years, the London diocese was moving towards a new system of organisation based on episcopal areas and synods, with Bishop Stopford's (and later Bishop Ellison's) full support. This came into being in 1979. Goodchild having played an enthusiastic part in the work of reorganisation, he was a willing participant in group work, collaborating with fellow London bishops much younger than he, until his retirement. Always strongly committed to Christian social action, he served from 1964 to 1974 as chairman of the Christian Aid department of the British Council of Churches. He was a member of General Synod from 1974 to 1980.

He took to retirement well in 1980, free to follow his beloved cricket, and to indulge his passion for carpentry, always being a handyman. He and his wife Jean, whom he had married in 1947 and who was a rock of support all his life, moved to Welwyn, near Bideford, in North Devon. From 1983 he served as an assistant bishop in the diocese of Exeter, enjoying helping out but, thankful not to have to go to meetings.

He leaves his widow, four daughters and a son.

## PROFESSOR PAUL HANCOCK

Paul Hancock, Professor of Neotectonics at the University of Bristol, died of cancer on December 9 aged 61. He was born on March 26, 1937.



Hancock: combined geology with archaeology

PAUL HANCOCK was an international authority on active fault zones and the movements that result from earthquakes. He was an expert in archaeoseismology, the analysis of earth movements from evidence of damage to archaeological sites, particularly in the classical world. He was on the staff of the Bristol geology department for 30 years.

Paul Lewis Hancock was educated at Sheen Grammar School, London, and Durham University, where he graduated with a first in geology in 1959. His doctoral research, on the structural geology of the Orkney archipelago in Fennoscandia, was also carried out at Durham, under the direction of Professor Martin Bott, and was completed in 1962. Hancock then spent two years as a research fellow in Cambridge, before taking lecturing posts in Nottingham and at Strathclyde University. In 1966 he joined the geology department of Bristol University, where he was to remain and where, three years ago, he was appointed to a personal chair as Professor of Neotectonics.

While structural geologists were focusing mainly on the complexities produced by the multiple folding of rocks, Hancock embarked on an investigation of how rocks fracture under stress to produce faults and joints. When interest in faulting became much more widespread in the 1980s, he was already an acknowledged leader in the field. His research shifted from the study of ancient fault systems, mainly in South Wales, the Cotswolds and the Bristol district, to the investigation of active faults, particularly in the Aegean.

This allowed him to indulge his passion for fieldwork in areas where the detailed evidence in the rocks is less obscured by vegetation: in Greece, Turkey (Anatolia), Saudi Arabia and Spain. In collaboration with Terry Engelder of Pennsylvania State University, he developed ways of determining stress fields in the Earth's crust using the pattern of joints (cracks) in rocks. His research on the evolution of fault zones is widely applied in areas of the world where earthquakes are commonplace.

In the 1990s Hancock combined his interest in geological structures with his fascination for archaeology. He showed, for example, how the displacement of a Roman water channel and the Byzantine fort built over it reveals that two earthquakes, some 500-1,000 years apart, affected the ancient city of Hierapolis in western Turkey.

But Hancock's contribution to geology went far beyond his own scientific work. He was an energetic and highly respected editor, and in 1978 founded the *Journal of Structural Geology*, now the lead-

ing journal for the subject. He was at various times a visiting professor in Argentina, Italy, Turkey, Germany, Canada and the United States.

He supervised some 20 research students, about half of them from the Middle East, but was perhaps more influential in his role, for more than 20 years, as tutor to undergraduates reading archaeology and geology at Bristol. His strong personality and interdisciplinary background added cohesion to a degree school that combines teaching from the faculties of arts and science and attracts students from widely different backgrounds.

He was an academic of the old school, and his style was somewhat formal, but many students seemed to prefer it that way. As a teacher he was well-organised, committed and uncompromising in his mission to educate.

His first marriage, to Janet Fletcher, was dissolved ten years ago. In 1994 he married Anne Becher, with whom he shared an enthusiasm for the arts, travel and good company. He is survived by her and by the son and daughter of his first marriage.

## DR HENRY COCKBURN

Dr Henry Cockburn, MC, former Medical Superintendent at St Mary's Hospital, London, died on December 4 aged 84. He was born on December 23, 1913.

HENRY COCKBURN, known as Cocks, was the last person to hold the traditional post of Medical Superintendent at a London teaching hospital. Such posts had been in existence since the 19th century and were usually given to bright young graduates, carefully selected by the consultant staff of the hospital; to be held for a few years on a small stipend while training for a chosen speciality. The duties were not arduous, and consisted principally of seeing that the beds were occupied, supervising the conduct of the resident medical staff and looking after the health of the nursing staff.

However, when Henry Cockburn was appointed to this post at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, as a returning ex-serviceman after the last war, he became indispensable. He kept the post for nearly thirty years and became one of the most dominant and certainly most loved figures at St Mary's, respected and admired by generations of medical students, doctors and nurses.

The son of a GP, Henry Dundas Cockburn was born in Ealing, educated at Oundle and in 1931 won a scholarship to study medicine at St Mary's Hospital Medical School. For the next seven years he enjoyed life to the full as an undergraduate, excelling at all forms of sport. It was the time of the great St Mary's Hospital rugby team of the 1930s, and Cockburn held his position as scrum half, setting up a special partnership with T. A. Kemp, the England outside half.

Cockburn qualified in 1939, and after a year of resident hospital posts joined the Royal Army Medical Corps. He spent most of the war in the Far East, initially commanding a field ambulance company attached to 32nd Independent Infantry Brigade. In the heavy fighting against the Japanese during the Bataan and Iloilo operations, he had to deal with the casualties of all three brigades involved, and part of the citation for his



Military Cross stated that "he organised and inspired search parties which succeeded in bringing in the wounded although the battle was still raging, and by getting the casualties under cover he saved many lives of the 200 wounded under his care". He continued with the Army throughout the Burma campaign, reaching the rank of lieutenant-colonel and being twice mentioned in dispatches.

The war over, he returned to St Mary's and was appointed assistant director of the student and staff health centre, which had just been started by his old friend and rugby colleague Dr T. A. Kemp. Within a few years he was also

appointed Medical Superintendent, and he remained in that post until his retirement in December 1979.

In his early postwar years he played rugby for Richmond and the Barbarians but then he settled down to a more sedate kind of rugby by forming a Schools XV made up of young medical students, with himself and Kemp as the oddies. Each week they had a fixture against well-known rugby schools in England, and while this helped to encourage rugby it also helped to recruit potential medical students for St Mary's.

Although he had little time for the vast increase in bureaucracy and committee work which came about during his time as Medical Superintendent, Cockburn's direct and honest approach with administrators earned him respect, and they frequently turned to him for advice. His concern and support for the junior medical staff were renowned, and many will recall with gratitude the gentle advice offered in what could be frightening circumstances for a young newly qualified doctor.

He never married and in retirement went to live in an old cottage in a remote part of the Welsh Borders. Here he lived happily for some 18 years, winning the affection and regard of the small village community.

He continued to visit London and participated in those activities at St Mary's that interested him such as the Postgraduate Association and the setting up of the medical school and hospital archives. He was also a regular supporter of the rugby club Easter tour of the West Country, and for many years organised the annual golf and cricket tour for postgraduates.

Karl Deaver, pop singer, died from a brain tumour on December 21 aged 67. He was born on December 16, 1931.

BETWEEN the summer of 1961 and spring of the following year, Karl Deaver was rarely out of the pop charts. In the space of nine months he had four consecutive Top Ten hits in Britain. It is for the third of them, the maddeningly memorable *Wimoweh*, that he is likely to be remembered. The record entered the charts on January 25, 1962, and remained there for 17 weeks, reaching number four.

Deaver said that the song had its origins in an African tribal chant he had heard during his days as a merchant seaman. But its catchy exotic refrain was already familiar to pop fans by the time he came to record it. A version by the American folk group the Weavers, key players in the 1950s revival of traditional music, had been adapted from a 1930s South African song called *Mbube*. Reworked under the title *The Lion Sleeps Tonight*, it became an international hit for the New York harmony group the Tokens in 1961, reaching number one in the US and number 11 in Britain.

The song would subsequently be recorded by Dave Newman, who reached number 34 in the British charts with it in 1972, and by the vocal group Tight Fit, for whom it was a number one hit in March 1982. But Deaver was in many ways his ideal performer, and it is his ideal song. Such success as he enjoyed was based on an improbably appealing musical cocktail of rhythm 'n' blues, country ballads, exotic borrowings from Africa, Asia or the Middle East: and a yodelling



Karl Deaver performing with his trio: his career peaked in the early 1960s

Glaswegian falsetto. Those ingredients were never as well combined as they were in *Wimoweh*.

He was born Angus McKenzie in Springfield, Glasgow, a few years earlier than he sometimes cared to admit. It is doubtful whether his early years were quite as colourful as his later accounts of them would suggest. Nevertheless, it seems reasonably certain that he left school at 14, joined the Merchant Navy and, with the exception of a period of service in the Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders at the time of the Korean War, spent a decade or more at sea.

His voyages — to China, the Caribbean, South America and, especially, southern Africa — were to feed an eclectic

taste for musical esoterica that was in many ways ahead of its time.

He was in his twenties when his own musical career began. He would recount how he had jumped ship in the United States and worked for a while in the clubs of America's country music capital, Nashville, Tennessee, before being deported as an illegal alien; such tales were well told, but received with some scepticism by his friends. What is beyond dispute is that by the late 1950s he was settled in Blackburn, Lancashire, and was performing under the name Karl Deaver.

With his exuberant mixing of musical styles, and a voice that swooped up and down through several octaves, he

soon attracted attention. He secured a recording contract with the Decca label and had his first hit with *Marcheta* in June 1961; it spent 20 weeks in the charts and reached number eight. Its success was matched by that of *Madaxili Rose*, released in October, and then surpassed, in January 1962, by *Wimoweh*.

A fourth song, *Never Goodbye*, entered the charts in February and got to number nine, but Deaver's career had already reached its peak. Over the course of the next two years he enjoyed rather more modest successes with a further seven records, among them *A Little Love A Little Kiss*, *Indian Love Call* and *Still*.

The pop world of 1964 was

very different from that of just three years before, however, and to the increasingly important teenage audience Deaver seemed old and his act old-fashioned. It was to be more than 25 years before he made a return to the charts.

Yet he declined to give up and was seldom out of work. With substantial support from the guitarist Kevin Neil and the bass player Gerry Cottrell, he performed in cabaret, touring seaside towns in Britain and holiday resorts abroad. His personal life was dogged by misfortune at this time. A son was killed in a car accident in 1963, Deaver himself having been seriously injured in another crash the year before. There were financial worries, too, with the singer at one point declared bankrupt and, in September 1968, briefly committed to Strangeways prison, Manchester, for arrears of maintenance payments; he was freed when the members of his trio clubbed together to help him out.

Deaver made an unlikely and unexpected return to the limelight at the end of his career. Despite performing in comparative obscurity for so long, he had acquired something of a cult following over the years. It led to his being invited in 1990 to collaborate with Manchester's Happy Mondays, the neo-psychedelic pranksters who were leading lights in the 1980s acid house boom. He entered with gusto into the slightly ironic spirit of the venture. The resulting record, *Lazyitis — One Armed Baxer*, went some way towards winning over the children of those teenagers who had turned their backs on him in 1964.

He was twice married and had several children.

## Latest wills

Joyce Eyre Lomas, of Bideford, Devon, left estate valued at £11,863,795 net.

Peter Johan Jansen, Group Chief Executive MB-Caradon, formerly MB Group, since 1989, of Weybridge, Surrey, left estate valued at £8,818,327 net.

Edward Stephen James Richard Flatter, of St Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Islands, left estate valued at £6,675,014 net.

Sir Robert James Clayton, technical director, General Electric Co 1968-83, GEC director 1978-83, of Stanmore, Middlesex, left estate valued at £2,479,470 net.

Baroness Dora May van der Feltz, of Loughborough, Leicestershire, left estate valued at £2,407,711 net.

Lorna Kathleen Macbeth, of Pennybridge, Overton, Cumbria, left estate valued at £3,904,934 net.

She left £6,000 to the PCC of St Mary's, Epton-cum-Newland, Pennybridge.

Norman Jackson, of Appleby, Southmorpe, North Lincolnshire, left estate valued at £1,436,529 net.

Lawrence McLean, of Tenenhall, Wolverhampton, left estate valued at £1,470,556 net.

Whitford Marshall, of Halifax, West Yorkshire, left estate valued at £1,115,071 net. She left £500 each to Halifax branch, RNLI, Carlton United Reformed Church, Halifax, the PCC of St Anne's in the Grove, Southowram, Halifax, and the Calderdale Society for Continuing Care.

Norma Oplalek, of London SW19, left estate valued at £1,770,615 net.

Harold Thomas Petrie, of

Thornstone, Kingsbridge, Devon, left estate valued at £1,082,817 net.

Eric Murray Frair, of London SW3, left estate valued at £1,096,702 net. He left £500 to the Sir Robert Speed Charitable Trust, and Clare College, Cambridge.

Elsie Winifred Pratt, of Taverham, Norwich, Norfolk, left estate valued at £1,520,124 net. She left £5,000 to St Peter's Trust.

James Galloway Reeve, of Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich, left estate valued at £1,001,098 net. He left £500 to Thorpe St Andrew Parish Church.

Norman Walker Secord, of Charlton Kings, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, left estate valued at £1,453,385 net. He left £5,000 each to Gloucestershire

County Association for the Blind, Salvation Army, Cotswold Group of Riding for the Disabled, Royal British Legion, St John's Ambulance Brigade, Guide Dogs for the Blind, National Star Centre for Disabled Youth, RNLI, National Trust for Scotland, Marie Curie Foundation, National Council of YMCA's, Red Cross Society and Cheltenham Animals Shelter, £2,000 to both the NSPCC and Stanton Guild House.

Violet Louisa Sparrow, of London SW20, left estate valued at £1,164,183 net.

Joyce Painter Whitting, of Dulwich, London SE21, left estate valued at £1,004,183 net.

Stanley Reginald Woodland, retired civil servant, of Haslemere, Surrey, left estate valued at £1,113,112 net.

Phyllis Mercy Woolgar, of Hassocks, West Sussex, left estate valued at £995,888 net.

## THE TRANSVAAL CRISIS

SERIOUS ACTION OF THE GERMAN EMPEROR

BERLIN, January 3.

The defeat and surrender of Dr Jameson and the Chartered Company's forces have been hailed here with a shout of triumph and the Emperor's message of congratulation to President Kruger is a relatively moderate expression of the general enthusiasm provoked by the victory of Germany's far-off kinsmen. The *Imperial Gazette* publishes the text of the Emperor's telegram as follows: "I express to you my sincere congratulations that without appealing to the help of friendly Powers you and your people have succeeded in repelling with your own forces the armed bands which had broken into your country and in maintaining the independence of your country against foreign aggression."

This telegram must not, however, be taken as merely the expression of the Emperor's personal feeling. It was drawn up after a conference at the Chancellery of the Palace. It assumes, therefore, the character of a State document of the highest importance, the more so as it contains an unqualified recognition of

## ON THIS DAY

January 4, 1896

Dr Jameson's raid against the Boer Government in the Transvaal on December 29 was a fiasco — a misplaced act of imperial folly, one in which *The Times* played a devious role. The Emperor William's telegram had the dual purpose of humiliating Britain and of acquiring a measure of popularity for him in Germany.

the independence of the South African Republic. Hitherto there had only been tentative efforts to explain away the restrictions placed by the Convention of 1884 on the international status of the Republic and to impugn the British claim of suzerainty. The Emperor's telegram decides the question summarily in the name of the German Empire. It is not surprising, therefore, that the Transvaal Government already draws from such powerful encouragement the conclusion that it can go a step further and denounce all

its existing treaties with Great Britain on the ground that they are *de facto* nullified by such an act of unparalleled aggression as that which has been carried out with her connivance, if not at her instigation and take this opportunity of placing its relations on a footing of equality which can never afterwards be challenged.

In official circles the promptitude and energy with which the British Government and the High Commissioner disavowed Dr Jameson's action and endeavoured to arrest his advance into Transvaal territory are no doubt recognized and appreciated. They are, of course, fully aware that instructions of the most categorical character had been despatched from London to the Cape some time before the German Government had taken any action in the matter. But unfortunately there has been little or no attempt to restrain public opinion by calling attention to that fact, and as a natural result the view almost universally taken is that Germany's intervention was mainly instrumental in compelling England to repudiate at the eleventh hour all responsibility for a criminal plot prematurely unmasked.

As for Mr Cecil Rhodes's complicity, nothing will shake people's belief in it here. The language which is applied to him almost defies reproduction...



هكذا من الجاهل











## FA Cup: England striker's penalty helps put Port Vale firmly in their place

## Owen proves spot on for Liverpool

Port Vale 0  
Liverpool 3

By MATT DICKINSON

ANY misgivings at having to change in a Port Vale dressing room yesterday when Michael Owen was sent off for a second yellow card were dispelled by the England striker's penalty.

The England international scored the opening goal of this FA Cup third-round tie after 33 minutes and, thereafter, his side were able to coast through the remaining hour — a luxury they are unlikely to afford against Manchester United in the next round. Further goals by Paul Ince and Robbie Fowler wrapped things up neatly.

Genuine Diamonds 29

Owen's strike from the penalty spot was another milestone in his phenomenal career, coming on his debut in the competition just as he had marked his first games in the FA Cup, League Cup and Premier League with goals. It was not, though, a spot-kick without controversy.

Owen himself won the penalty when he tumbled over the thigh of Dave Barnett, but the decision of Rob Harris, the referee, enraged the Port Vale fans. Apart of course, from the gaggle of shrieking schoolgirls who mobbed the Liverpool team coach in the hope of a glimpse of their idol behind the tinted glass. To the rest it was a blatant case of diving.

Those supporters who did yell "cheat" at the 19-year-old were presumably the same ones who delighted in his tumble to the ground

against Argentina in the World Cup in similar circumstances, and Barnett, despite his disappointment, kept his perspective.

"I half-pulled out of the tackle but Owen used my body," the defender said. "He's good at that, and he will get quite a few penalties in his career because of his pace and agility."

It was a candid appraisal from a centre half who might have been tempted to shift the blame. Owen can hardly be blamed for knocking the ball past slower opponents and flicking on the turbo to clutter into them. Provided he is not seeking to tumble where there is no contact, defenders like Barnett can hardly complain.

Apart from Owen's daring performance, which induced bookings for both Barnett and the hapless Paul Beesley, there was little else for Gerard Houllier to savour as his side recorded their fourth victory in succession. "We were very professional and never underestimated them," the Liverpool manager said, but nor did they play with any great style or vigour against a team from the Nationwide League first division who had secured just four points from their previous 11 League matches.

John Rudge had proved plenty of times in the past that he can transform his lower league players into titans for a day, as victories against Tottenham Hotspur, Everton and Southampton had shown in recent seasons. Acknowledging that fact, as well as Liverpool's propensity for abject collapses, the television cameras were at Vale Park to capture the visitors' embarrassment.

Perhaps it was the absence of five players through injury and illness, or maybe that the Port Vale manager has not the resources of yesterday, but no such heroics ever looked likely. They had to beat, or at least rattle, Liverpool's suspect defence, but they opted, instead, to duplicate their Premiership opponents' wing-back formation and their steady pace.



Owen slots home the 33rd-minute penalty that opened the door for Liverpool at Vale Park yesterday

"The last thing you want is a free flowing game against a team like Liverpool," Rudge said, but a more gung ho approach might have unsettled a rearguard that can always be expected to break under pressure. Only for a 15 minute spell after half-time, when Tony Naylor broke clear but was thwarted by Phil Babb, did the Anfield defence look, briefly, suspect.

By then, Liverpool had already been allowed to cruise into a two-goal

lead, the penalty by Owen followed five minutes later when a free kick by Patrick Berger from wide on the left was diverted from Phil Babb to Ince for a simple headed finish.

Vale offered far more threat to James's goal in the second half, but, inevitably for a side that has conceded 50 goals in the Nationwide League first division, there were bound to be spaces left at the back.

Robbie Fowler only played for the

last half-hour in place of Riedle, but he could easily have had a hat-trick, twice hitting the side-netting before finally shooting past Kevin Pilkington. The provider, inevitably, was Owen.

PORT VALE (3-5-2): K. Pilkington — N. Aspin, D. Barnett, P. Beesley (sub: C. Horsfield, 20 min) — M. Walsh, M. Beesley (sub: G. O'Callaghan, 87), J. Boyce, A. Tarkenton, S. McLaughlin (sub: W. Cordell, 23) — T. Naylor, P. Babb.

LIVERPOOL (3-5-2): D. James — J. Carragher, S. Gerrard, P. Berger — J. McQueen, J. R. Kennedy, P. Ince, P. Beesley, S. Brown (sub: S. Hanks, 63) — R. Fowler (sub: R. Fowler, 50), M. Owen.

Referee: R. Harris.

## Humphreys confirms class divide

Sheffield Wednesday 4  
Norwich City 1

By RICHARD HOBSON

THE growing superiority of the FA Cup Premier League over their poorer Nationwide League brethren was confirmed again yesterday as Sheffield Wednesday progressed into the FA Cup fourth round with minimal difficulty.

Ritchie Humphreys scored his first goals for nearly two years as they eased to their biggest win of the season against a Norwich City side who failed to impose themselves.

It means that the Premiership has triumphed in six of the seven ties pitting in direct opposition teams from the top two divisions of the overall pyramid. Nottingham Forest were the one side to perish, and their status in the top flight must be regarded as temporary. If Wednesday beat Stockport County in the fourth round — as they should, given home advantage — then they will reach the last 16 for the second time since 1993, when they lost to Arsenal in the final.

The fact that the draw had been made during this contest angered both managers. Bruce Riech, of Norwich, said that it "belittled the competition" while Danny Wilson, his counterpart at Wednesday, was even more scathing. "It shows disrespect to the clubs," Wilson said. "I cannot believe it was allowed. I think it is a case of the television companies trying to put one over on each other. I became aware of the draw at the start of the second half when people in the crowd kept shouting it out. But I didn't want the players to know in case they lost concentration."

Officials must hope for a much improved crowd at Hillsborough for the Stockport visit. The attendance of 18,737, swelled by a hearty travelling contingent, represented the second lowest of the season. Only a Worthington Cup tie against Cambridge United attracted fewer, so much for the magic of the Cup. Such was the subdued atmosphere at three o'clock it was almost worth checking that the kick-off had not been delayed.

Norwich began with greater urgency as Roberts forced a fine block tackle from Thorne and Eddie prompted a save at the near post by Strickland. However, their reliance on the off-side trap courted danger and after straying the wrong side of the last man on two occasions Humphreys breached the line of defenders to give

Wednesday the lead in the 18th minute. Exchanging paces with Carbone, he skidded a low shot under the dive of Watt. Carbone, with his light touch and low centre of gravity, was too much for the visitors. Fifteen minutes later his cross from the right created a second goal for Humphreys, who accepted the chance at the third opportunity. Watt palmed away the first headed effort and Jackson recovered his position swiftly to stop the second, but with two bodies prostrate Humphreys now had an easy task.

When Humphreys nudged a long, diagonal pass by Hinchcliffe into the path of Rudi, who rounded the goalkeeper to extend the lead five minutes before half-time, it seemed a question of the extent of the success. Even though Roberts retrieved a goal just before the break — a glancing header at the near post from a corner by Adams



Rudi scored third goal

— Wilson still felt sufficiently confident to withdraw Jonk as a precaution.

Sonner added aggression to the midfield and might have scored after 67 minutes when Rudi and Alexandersson combined to put him through. Watt saved from point-blank range, but the fourth goal duly arrived six minutes later. Hinchcliffe delivered a perfect, in swinging corner from the right, which Stefanovic bundled in.

"We did well in our own way," Riech said. "But it is a sign of the capability of international-class players that they punish you when you make errors. You have to defend properly against them." SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (3-5-2): P. Smith — E. Thorne (sub: L. Brindley, 77 min), D. Watt, D. Strickland — N. Alexandersson, W. Watt (sub: D. Sonner, 46), P. Atkinson, P. Rudi, A. Hinchcliffe — R. Humphreys, B. Carbone. NORWICH CITY (4-4-2): M. Watt — D. Smith, M. Jackson, M. Hendry (sub: C. Forster, 75), E. Fugroviad — N. Adams, L. May, J. Hall (sub: A. Forbes, 79), P. Grant (sub: J. Lewis, 80), R. Roberts, D. Eddie. Referee: P. Reynolds.

## Fourth-round draw offers up taste of times past

AS AN example of the power of television — football's paymaster — and the more bizarre decision-making of the Football Association, the draw for the fourth round of the FA Cup yesterday could not be bettered. It took place in the banquet hall at Wembley Stadium, in front of its usual audience of expectant managers, players and token supporters, but the 4pm timing could hardly have been less appropriate.

The Port Vale v Liverpool third-round tie had only just finished, the Sheffield Wednesday v Norwich City tie had marginally passed its halfway stage and the Manchester United v Middlesbrough tie had barely started. Long gone are the days of excited huddling around a radio on Monday morning.

It did not seem the same, either, without the bouffant-haired presence of Graham Kelly, the former FA chief executive, who resigned in disgrace over the "cash for votes" scandal last month. David Davies, the FA executive director, took over as master of ceremonies while Nobby Stiles and Norman Hunter, the former England defenders, did the draw from the bingo-style font. Long gone, too, is the bag of balls from which dreams come true.

It was a strange, almost muted ceremony, with few of the oods and aahs that have accompanied it down the years — apart from when Manchester United or Middlesbrough were paired with Liverpool. When United and Middlesbrough concluded business at Old Trafford almost

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

two hours later, with United winning 3-1, the tie-of-the-round award became obvious.

Next out, Wimbledon were drawn to meet Tottenham Hotspur — the significance of which was lost on most of those present. The clubs will play at Selhurst Park in their Cup tie over the weekend of January 23 and will meet again on the following Wednesday in the first leg of their Worthington Cup semi-final. As an appetiser, they are also due to play in an FA Carling Premiership fixture at White Hart Lane on January 16.

With replays pending, the ifs, buts and maybes are endless among the remaining 17 clubs from the Premiership, 11 from the Nationwide League

first division, six from the second division, three from the third division and two from the Football Conference. At least three clubs from the Nationwide League must qualify for the last 16, adding spice to the normally Premiership-dominated fifth round.

For Wolverhampton Wanderers, recent history will repeat itself should Arsenal see off the challenge of Preston North End in their delayed third-round tie this evening. Wolves and Arsenal met in the semi-finals at Villa Park last season.

Portsmouth were rewarded for their 1-0 victory against Nottingham Forest with a home game against Rotherham and Diamonds, one of the two non-league sides left, or Leeds United. Steve Claridge, the Portsmouth striker and scorer of the win-

ning goal at the City Ground, predicted that Leeds would prevail against Rotherham in the replay at Elland Road, but he was none too optimistic. "I've got a funny feeling I won't be coming back again," Claridge said, a reference to his appearance at Wembley yesterday. "At least it's a big boost for the boardroom. It means we should get paid next month." Oxford United's players, whose wages have also been late this season, will be similarly pleased with the tie against Chelsea at the Manor Ground.

Students of finer detail will have noted the pairing of Newcastle United and Bradford City, to be played at St James's Park. It is a repeat of the Cup final of 1911, when Bradford won 1-0 after a replay.

## Moyes busy restoring pride to Preston

Given that David Moyes, the Preston North End manager, was an uncertain prospect when he took over at Deepdale last month, he has been busy restoring pride to Preston.

They could be in for a pleasant awakening at a club thriving after Moyes's first year at the helm. The fledgling manager has immersed his team in the passing game. He encourages the interchanging of positions, a creed that has seen no player reach double figures even though Preston, with 41 goals from 23 matches, are comfortably the most prolific scorers in the Nationwide League second division.

No detail better illustrates Moyes's footballing vision. Preston's push for promotion has been built on a unity of purpose. It is a source of immense satisfaction that they have yet to be outplayed this season, yet Moyes, 35, readily concedes that Arsenal will benefit from his unwavering philosophy.

Moyes flatly rejects the suggestion that he might delve into the marionettes of John Beck, the manager famed for his reliance on the long-ball game, who brought him to Preston five years ago. "It was certainly an experience with John," Moyes said. "He showed me another way of playing. Some of it I'll use if I have to, but not his style of play."

How, then, does Moyes propose to fashion what he ventures would be one of the biggest modern Cup upsets? How does anybody, even the likes of Harry Redknapp and George Graham, approach a game against Arsenal, with their world-class players? he asks. "They frightened me to

## Julian Muscat meets the manager hoping to overcome history as well as Arsenal at Deepdale tonight

death when I saw them against Leeds recently. So we have got to keep things in perspective.

Arsenal are the outstanding team of last season. To be honest, my biggest worry is that we will be filling Deepdale (capacity 21,500) for the first time since we got promoted in 1996. I want the players to give themselves and the fans the chance of a half-decent game."

Decent games are what they long for at Deepdale, once the bastion of English football.

Indeed, this match is a blending of the old and new. Preston, the inaugural Double-winners in 1899, versus Arsenal, the most recent vintage.

A reminder of the club's heritage radiates from the giant facial images of Sir Tom Finney and Bill Shankly, who played at Deepdale together in the early 1960s, that stare down from upturned seats in the new stands of a half-developed ground that will accommodate 30,000 if promotion can be achieved. As Moyes relates, history is all they have

had to hang on to since Preston departed, never yet to return, from the old first division 37 years ago.

Not that Moyes is unfamiliar with the big occasion. At 18 he played at right back for Celtic in the European Cup away to Juventus the following year against the mighty Ajax at Celtic Park. He also claims the distinction of scoring with his first touch in his first Old Firm derby — "although Tom McAdam always insisted that he got the final touch".

It was as early as 18 that



The shadow of Shankly helps to recall Preston's pomp as Moyes, their highly regarded manager, tries to forge a new dynasty at a Deepdale ground steeped in history

Moyes felt the lure of management. Obligated to act as a "runner" on coaching courses, he revelled in the camaraderie of those who lived and breathed football. "People were always joking that I'd be out watching a kid's game when I should have been in the house," he said.

To meet Moyes is to encounter a strength of character. He has a presence, the air of a man going places, one who generates respect by example rather than demanding it, as so many young wannabes do with their misplaced authoritarian approach. When he talks, as he did about his initial managerial experience, of "getting the players here to love each other a bit more", the resolve in his eye betrays what the softly spoken words conceal.

Pressure from the club's plc status demanded that Moyes's first managerial responsibility was to cull seven players from his first-team squad. Within this financial straitjacket, his work with a squad of 19 has drawn attention.

Moyes is regularly touted as a replacement for Brian Kidd as coach at Manchester United, a scenario he describes as "very flattering, but there has been no offer, nor am I expecting one".

Yet one can detect the influence of Alex Ferguson, the United manager and high priest to Scottish aspirants such as Moyes, when he talks of his players. "I like to think of us as a working team," he said. "There are some young players here and we need to be on top of them without being to their face. Winning in this game is all about being good professionals and most of that is achieved on the training ground." The words could almost have come from Ferguson himself.

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**BY OLIVER HOLT**  
**TEBALL CORRESPONDENT**



**FA  
CUP**

This story, you see, is not a true romance because Rushden and Diamonds are not true minnows. They are a fine club, staffed by courteous, helpful, hospitable people and

Lincoln City ..... 0  
Sunderland ..... 1

By PAT GIBSON

Lincoln, to their credit, kept trying to play football but, those penalty appeals apart, Sunderland had few problems in recording their eighth clean sheet in nine games, despite the dismissal of Williams just before the end of the game for a second bookable offence.

Gray — D. Diehl, N. Galt,  
Reform: M. Fletcher



Foster, right, who squandered chances for Rushden and Diamonds, pushes forward while O'Leary, left, and Talbot, the opposing managers, embrace after the final whistle.

bank looked primed to score a goal. Somehow, it never happened. Partly owing to Leeds's overelaboration, partly to the defiant goalkeeping of Ian Fearley, it was Rushden who created the best chances.

Adrian Foster should have put them ahead in the first minute but he could only head a cross by John Hamsher against a post from close range. De Souza could have scored, too, eight minutes before half-time and Foster missed another gilt-edged

**RUSHDEN AND DIAMONDS** 14 4 21 1 Few - 1 T Wooding, J Fiddwell, D Bradshaw, P Unwin - 1 J Hamer, M McEnthron, G Buttenworth, C Higgs - 1 A De Souza, A Foster

**LEEDS UNITED** 13 4 31 N Martyn - 1 V Zogovace, A Haaaland, I Harte - 1 G Hefie, D Hopkin, L Bowyer, D Granville - 1 C Wainhard sub A Smith 67, J Haczetzwark, M Kewell

Referee: S Dunn

BY WALTER GAMMIE

Bristol City	0
Everton	2

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

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minated by

## Plymouth Sturridge

Southport .....	0
Leyton Orient.....	2

**BY STEPHEN WOOD**

**LYTON ORIENT (3-5-2)** C MacKenzie — A Joseph, D Smith, S Clark — T Richards (sub. K Ampadu, 77) M Beal, M Long (sub. K Inglesher, 88), W Walschaers, M Lockwood — C Griffiths (sub. A Semba, 81), J McPougled

**RUSSELL KEMPSON**

**Cole bun**

**Workers Swain**

...nsea's hop

**BY BILL EDGAR**

hopes o

laught expertly by Mart Poom, the Derby goalkeeper. The hosts were worn down by the passing of Stefano

**Success**

Shortly after half-time, however, the encounter swung back in the visitors' favour. After an hour, Phil Horner, the Southport defender, was adjudged to have fouled Ling in the area and Dean Smith converted the penalty, although the decision by John Brandwood, the referee,

BY PETER ROBINSON

Colt made his debut. What about Swansea? They were excellent, yes, but they say, is the future of Welsh football. And how old is he? Seven-

he did not let them dance away from the like a natural. Had he seen he would have brought house down. Instead, it Dicks whose long, low

**LEYTON ORIENT** (3-5-2) C MacKenzie — M Joseph, D Smith, S Clark — T Richards (sub: K Ampadu, 77) M Beal, M Ling (sub: J Inglethorpe, 88), W Walschaerts, M Lockwood — C Griffiths (sub: A Samba, 81), J McPherson



## GOALSCORERS

[illegible]

F.A. PREMIERSHIP

	HOME						AWAY						Goal	
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Cl
1 Aston Villa	20	7	2	1	19	12	4	4	2	12	8	36	+11	
2 Chelsea	20	7	4	0	15	5	4	6	1	18	12	37	+14	
3 Man Utd	20	6	4	0	15	4	3	6	2	12	11	36	+14	
4 Arsenal	20	6	4	0	15	4	3	6	2	15	14	33	+15	
5 Leeds	20	6	3	1	16	5	3	4	4	6	11	29	+1	
6 West Ham	20	6	3	0	15	10	3	2	5	8	13	32	+1	
7 Liverpool	20	5	3	2	21	12	4	1	5	15	5	31	+11	
8 Middlesbrough	20	4	5	1	15	10	3	4	3	16	10	30	0	
9 Wimbledon	20	4	5	3	1	16	10	2	3	5	17	29	-5	
10 Leicester	20	5	3	2	15	11	2	1	3	7	12	29	-1	
11 Coventry	20	4	3	2	10	9	3	5	2	10	9	28	+2	
12 Tottenham	20	5	3	2	19	16	2	5	5	9	14	27	-2	
13 Newcastle	20	5	2	3	14	13	1	4	5	15	13	24	-4	
14 Everton	20	2	6	2	3	6	3	2	10	10	16	23	-8	
15 Sheffield Wed	20	5	2	3	13	8	1	2	4	6	12	17	-1	
16 Blackburn	20	3	5	2	14	11	1	1	6	8	12	17	-1	
17 QPR	20	3	4	3	11	12	1	1	6	5	17	17	-13	
18 Charlton	20	2	4	3	13	10	1	1	4	6	10	16	-7	
19 Southampton	20	2	3	6	12	20	1	1	3	6	4	18	-14	
20 Nottm F	20	1	6	3	9	12	1	1	8	9	24	13	-18	

NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

	HOME						AWAY						Goal		
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Cl	
1 Sunderland	26	10	2	1	13	6	8	6	1	24	10	56	+23		
2 Ipswich	26	8	2	1	4	18	6	5	5	2	18	9	48	+26	
3 Birmingham	26	6	6	5	2	16	10	3	4	3	7	12	35	+2	
4 Bradford	26	7	5	1	22	12	5	5	3	5	16	15	44	+44	
5 Walsley	26	7	5	1	20	12	5	3	5	24	24	44	+44		
6 Bolton	26	7	5	4	2	26	14	4	6	2	22	18	43	+44	
7 Norwich	26	7	5	1	22	14	4	6	2	16	16	43	+44		
8 Mansfield	26	5	9	3	25	12	3	2	8	13	30	41	+31		
9 Grimsby	26	6	8	4	1	21	9	4	1	13	20	41	+31		
10 West Brom	26	8	5	0	5	28	10	3	5	3	19	29	38	+37	
11 Sheffield Utd	26	7	7	3	3	22	10	3	1	7	19	29	38	+37	
12 Preston	26	6	3	5	2	10	11	3	2	8	5	16	29	-1	
13 Barnley	26	5	8	4	23	17	4	5	4	14	16	34	+27		
14 G Palace	26	7	5	1	4	18	2	2	2	5	9	25	34	+27	
15 Swindon	26	6	4	3	25	20	2	7	3	17	20	38	+34		
16 Exeter	26	6	3	5	2	16	11	2	3	7	14	20	38	+34	
17 Stockport	26	4	5	4	16	13	2	2	6	5	10	20	38	+34	
18 QPR	26	5	4	5	15	11	3	1	9	13	24	28	+28		
19 Bury	26	7	3	3	15	13	0	0	1	7	16	28	+28		
20 Charlton	26	5	3	5	20	16	1	1	4	16	16	28	+28		
21 Port Vale	26	5	1	7	12	22	2	3	8	17	26	25	+23		
22 Oxford Utd	26	4	3	5	18	22	2	3	4	10	22	24	+24		
23 Bristol City	26	4	3	5	18	28	1	3	9	14	28	23	+23		
24 Crewe	26	4	3	3	7	16	28	1	3	9	23	19	+19		

SECOND DIVISION

	HOME						AWAY						Goal	
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Cl
1 Fulham	23	8	2	1	13	8	7	2	3	13	9	48	+22	
2 Watford	23	8	3	2	20	12	7	2	4	15	10	48	+33	
3 Bolton	24	7	8	3	18	15	6	5	6	16	15	47	+32	
4 Gillingham	24	8	3	3	20	11	4	6	1	10	10	47	+26	
5 Bournemouth	22	7	3	0	21	8	4	3	5	14	16	39	+35	
7 Man City	24	8	2	5	21	9	4	4	4	13	13	38	+38	
8 Reading	23	6	3	1	15	10	5	1	4	16	13	38	+38	
9 Blackpool	23	6	4	1	22	10	4	1	5	16	13	38	+38	
10 Preston	23	4	6	2	19	16	5	1	7	16	25	34	+35	
10 Wigan	24	5	8	3	18	7	3	4	3	15	17	34	+32	
11 Reading	23	5	8	2	17	12	4	1	5	10	17	34	+32	
12 Blackpool	23	6	4	1	22	10	4	1	5	16	13	38	+38	
13 Charlton	23	6	3	2	14	10	4	3	5	16	19	33	+24	
14 Luton	22	5	2	2	11	9	4	3	5	18	21	30	+24	
15 Bristol R	23	5	3	2	19	13	1	5	8	8	12	38	+27	
16 Colchester	23	8	4	0	10	16	1	4	5	13	17	38	+38	
17 Walsley	23	6	3	1	13	10	0	1	4	15	12	29	+26	
18 Northampton	24	2	7	2	12	12	3	3	7	11	15	25	+22	
19 Wrexham	24	6	3	5	15	14	0	4	4	8	7	29	+22	
20 Notts Co	23	4	4	2	10	16	2	4	4	10	16	34	+36	
21 Walsley	23	6	3	1	13	10	0	1	4	15	12	29	+26	
22 Lincoln	24	3	2	7	11	19	2	4	6	12	19	21	+23	
23 Macclesfield	24	3	2	8	9	12	2	4	6	10	18	21	+19	
24 Crewe	24	3	2	8	14	18	1	3	9	9	25	17	+17	

THIRD DIVISION

	HOME						AWAY						Goal	
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Cl
1 Cardiff	24	9	1	3	18	8	5	3	3	14	17	48	+22	
2 Brentford	23	11	0	1	26	9	6	0	7	15	21	45	+41	
3 Cam Utd	24	8	2	3	18	15	6	3	4	2	11	41	+31	
4 Mansfield	24	8	1	2	19	8	4	4	6	19	19	41	+38	
5 Bournemouth	24	8	2	3	15	15	6	4	3	11	15	41	+38	
6 Hallow	23	8	6	1	19	13	6	5	5	15	12	39	+35	
7 Brighton	25	5	1	5	18	16	7	1	6	17	16	38	+35	
8 Northampton	24	8	4	3	15	14	4	2	5	21	22	38	+45	
9 Bournemouth	24	8	1	6	22	20	7	4	3	15	18	38	+41	
10 Oxford	23	7	3	2	24	10	3	3	8	10	15	36	+34	
11 Clifton	24	6	3	3	14	14	3	8	3	16	14	36	+34	
12 Swansea	23	8	4	1	13	8	4	4	6	14	15	36	+36	
13 Plymouth	23	6	2	5	13	15	4	2	6	12	13	36	+27	
14 Exeter	23	6	3	2	22	15	9	2	4	14	22	36	+36	
15 Rochdale	24	5	4	2	11	9	3	4	6	12	18	33	+31	
16 Southend	25	5	3	4	16	12	3	4	6	15	22	33	+31	
17 Exeter	24	7	2	3	15	8	1	4	7	10	19	28	+28	
18 Carlisle	23	6	3	3	13	15	3	2	4	15	15	28	+28	
19 Barnet	25	5	2	6	17	23	3	2	6	13	22	26	+30	
20 Shrewsbury	25	4	4	4	17	19	2	3	5	5	14	26	+22	
21 Hartlepool	25	4	3	6	21	21	3	2	7	13	20	26	+22	
22 Carlisle	25	4	2	4	9	13	3	2	4	15	15	26	+26	
23 Portoro	24	2	7	1	9	11	2	1	9	10	20	21	+21	
24 Hull	24	3	2	7	19	21	3	2	8	10	26	15	+21	

SCOTLAND

	HOME						AWAY						Goal	
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Cl
1 Rangers	20	8	0	1	17	4	5	2	3	12	3	43	+20	
2 Kilmarnock	21	7	3	0	19	6	4	4	2	11	6	40	+18	
3 Celtic	20	7	2	1	23	6	2	4	4	13	14	33	+22	
4 St John's	22	4	5	2	16	16	8	4	3	10	12	33	0	
5 Motherwell	22	6	3	3	16	11	0	5	5	6	18	26	-7	
6 Hearts	22	6	1	4	17	13	0	5	5	5	18	24	-7	
7 Aberdeen	21	4	2	1	20	15	3	2	7	12	21	26	-8	
8 Dundee	21	3	3	5	9	15	3	2	5	10	13	23	-12	
9 Dundee Utd	21	2	6	3	7	10	4	1	7	15	17	22	-13	
10 Dunfermline	22	2	6	3	11	14	0	6	5	6	19	18	-10	

SECOND DIVISION

	HOME						AWAY						Goal	
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Cl
1 Aberdeen	22	10	1	1	13	10	5	4	1	19	13	50	+26	
2 Falkirk	22	7	2	2	20	9	4	3	3	10	10	42	+18	
3 Ayr	22	6	2	2	32	15	6	1	3	15	13	39	+17	
4 Airdrie	22	4	2	5	12	16	7	3	1	13	9	33	+16	
5 St Mirren	21	5	1	4	10	15	3	4	4	7	10	29	-8	
6 Alloa	22	4	2	4	12	15	3	5	4	12	17	29	-8	
7 Hamilton	21	2	5	3	9	13	3	2	4	16	15	25	-11	
8 D Morton	21	2	3	6	11	15	3	2	5	10	11	20	-5	
9 Raith	22	2	4	5	8	14	2	5	5	14	21	20	-5	
10 Stranraer	22	1	1	9	10	16	2	0	9	10	28	17	-27	

SECOND DIVISION

	HOME						AWAY						Goal	
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Cl
1 Livingston	20	7	3	0	16	6	6							

**Celtic ab**  
**to draw**  
**on title**  
**credentia**

**Stun**

**Wiseman's appea**  
**fall on deaf ear**

**Willing continue**

POOLS																													
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	2	2	1	1	1	2
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	3	1	2	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	2

32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49
1	2	1	3	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	2
1	3	3	3	3	1	2	1	1	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

FORECAST: Half-time no claims required — scenario not substantially different from last scenario; lower and moderate no-claim class.

Full-time, no claims required — forecast is moderate; 1st, some claims and low no-claim risk.

1. *Chlorophyll a* (Chl *a*)

4	Dumbarton	19	3	2	5	13	14	6	3	1	19	3	22	34
5	Albion	19	4	1	5	13	22	4	2	4	11	14	27	12
6	Berwick	20	4	2	4	15	14	1	7	1	8	9	24	9
7	Queen's Pk	20	3	4	2	11	9	2	2	7	12	16	21	2
8	East Stirling	20	1	6	2	10	10	2	3	8	14	17	18	5
9	Cowdenby	20	3	1	6	13	18	2	6	7	18	16	16	15
10	Montrose	19	2	4	9	15	12	1	1	9	7	26	14	2

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Old Firm fixture provides a break from the norm as extravagance takes over

# Celtic able to draw on title credentials

Rangers 2  
Celtic 2

By Kevin McCarthy

WITH a draw that guards a ten-point advantage over Celtic, with the winter break beginning, the greatest prize in this Old Firm fixture was collected by Rangers. Calculations, though, will also have to register the fact that Celtic, unbeaten in three matches with their rivals this season, are far from being inferior when the sides come face to face. An atmosphere of the utmost hostility only proved their worth.

Celtic had heard the storm warning. After a 5-1 defeat in the previous Old Firm match, Rangers were bound to be the human equivalent of a gale and the visitors' tactics were akin to boarding up windows. Jozef Venglos, the Celtic manager, had abandoned the normal formation, preferring to play three centre backs, while detailing Riekeh and Mahe to stay wide and mark the wingers, Kanchelskis and McCann.

For a long period, Celtic hid behind the closed doors, listening to the roof creak and fearing that the walls might come tumbling down. Rangers certainly had their opportunities to inflict structural damage in the opening half-hour and yet this match, if the noise from the stands was ignored, bore a strong resemblance to several routine fixtures seen on this ground in recent months.

So grandiose was the billing of the fixture that the text might have been composed of NOSTALGIA can sometimes be more of a burden than a comfort, yet Dundee United supporters are beginning to experience a warm feeling of security in seeing Paul Sturrock, parading the touchline once more.

The talismanic player who prompted much of the Tannadice club's success at home and abroad during the 1980s no longer possesses the impish look of the playground with his socks flapping at his ankles. These days, Sturrock wears a suit, but the influence could be just as crucial.

The Dundee United manager chose the scene of the club's finest hour, Dens Park, to provide what he hopes is the watershed in United's wretched season. The ground, belonging to city rivals Dundee, has always held a special place in United hearts since they claimed the Scottish Premier League title there in May 1983.

by Don King for one of his world heavyweight boxing contests. In the Old Firm canon, this the last of the millennium. The description had a rhetorical ring to it, but the significance to the players was irrelevant. Once more, Rangers found it hard to break through against opponents at Ibrox.

They were eventually called upon to prove their resilience, after falling behind, but it had looked, for a time, as if they would require only patience. In that spell, Celtic rarely pieced together an attack that would give the defence a few moments to catch its breath. The decisions made by Venglos were open to question, so long as Celtic were so beleaguered.

The 5-1 match in November had been presided over by Moravcik while playing as a forward, instead of filling his usual role in midfield. The same play was attempted last night, but it was as if Celtic were striving to fool Rangers with an old card trick. The Ibrox side, no longer baffled by it, pressed hard on Moravcik and drove him back into harmless positions.

Several attempts on goal by the Rangers side whizzed around the target, one from Rod Wallace that was beaten away by Gould, the Celtic goalkeeper, and the riposte from Celtic, after 25 minutes, was freakish rather than measured as Mahe clipped the far post with a mis-hit cross. Nonetheless, the vehemence of Rangers had its natural limits and, after 30 minutes had passed, Venglos's team were able to



Gabriel Amato, the Rangers forward, who went on to score his side's first goal, is brought down by Tommy Boyd, the Celtic defender

show that they could use the ball for far more than desperate clearances.

Seven minutes from the interval, Celtic took an unexpected lead. Amoroso was weak with his header when clearing a free kick and, worse still, found that he had put

Moravcik in possession. The Slovakian sidestepped a challenge, opening up the space from which Stubbs found the far corner of the net with a smoothly flighted, curling shot.

These contests, of course, are of an unstable nature and

Stubbs will have known that his hold on the title of his club's hero could slip away. He was to bear part of the blame when Rangers equalised in the last minute of the first half. Others, too, were at fault, with McJannet leaving his position to embark on a head-

strong run that saw him dispossessed far from his penalty area.

Rangers channelled play down the left and McCann dropped a tempting cross into the goalmouth. Stubbs was disoriented for the moment that allowed Gabriel Amato to head home fiercely. The transformation of the Argentinian's reputation, however, had only just begun.

Thirteen minutes into the second half, he blended guile, as he swivelled past Stubbs, with strength, as he broke through a tackle, that sent the ball spinning on. Then, the predatory instincts of Rod Wallace took over and his speed of reaction allowed him to fire home at the near post. Even so, this was a match that had undergone a personality.

So far behind in the table, Celtic were licensed to be reckless and their adventure had been threatening. In the 55th minute, Mahe had slipped round Kanchelskis and, at-



Amato screams his elation after scoring for Rangers in the Old Firm game at Ibrox

## Sturrock wants a future like the past

By Phil Gordon

Sixteen years on, another enjoyable day out at the neighbours. United's players walked the 170 yards from Tannadice to Dens Park before their 3-1 victory on Saturday — could put an end to United looking back in anger, and, instead to a brighter future.

Had Dundee won the 101st Tayside derby, they would have imposed a seven-point gap over their rivals, whose present mediocrity only heightens their achievements of a decade ago. Then, United were a side feared throughout Europe, one which handed out humiliation in the Nou Camp and Monaco as they reached the semi-finals of the European Cup in 1984 and were UEFA Cup finalists in 1987.

Yet they have always fared better

when looking closer to home. Sturrock's unbroken tenure as a United player meant he was as much a favourite son of Jim McLean, the architect of those glories as manager and now the club chairman, as much as the supporters.

McLean took Sturrock "home" from St Johnstone three months ago, after sacking his own brother, Tommy, whose labelling team were recalling memories of an ignominious relegation four years ago.

Sturrock has had little luck since taking charge, and indeed his side remains second from bottom despite the derby success, but just as important as securing a first league win since October was the fact that it

drew Dundee back to within a point going into the winter shutdown. "This was the biggest game I have been involved in since becoming manager," admitted Sturrock. "It was crucial to win. It has been a traumatic 1998 for the fans and we can only hope 1999 is better."

Back in 1983, Sturrock skipped across the Dens Park mud to torment Dundee, but these days the chubbier figure uses his brain instead of his legs. He dropped Alex Mathie and allowed the robust teenager, Steven Thompson, to partner Billy Dodds, in attack. The pair provided United with a 2-0 lead inside 16 minutes and Kjetil Olofsson's sublime volley sealing the victory.

Aberdeen, who sold Dodds three months ago, could have done with the Scotland player. They slumped to a 4-1 defeat at St Johnstone despite taking the lead through Jamie Buchanan, son of former Manchester United captain, Martin. John O'Neill, the St Johnstone forward who missed a penalty last week at Rangers, atoned with two fine goals.

Paul Hegarty, the Aberdeen caretaker-manager, remained upbeat about his chances of replacing Alex Miller on a full-time basis, despite the defeat. It was the team's first defeat in five games since Hegarty was put in charge.

"It is up to the chairman and the directors to decide in their own time," he said. "I know that up until 4.45pm on Saturday they were de-

lighted with me. But I don't know what a win would have done, just as I don't know what the defeat has done."

"Look over the records and see how many other teams have ten points out of the last five games. I remain content with my own ability to do the job and this week I am heading down south to look at players. I am really upset with the manner in which we lost. It was self-inflicted."

Heart of Midlothian and Dunfermline played out a predictable goalless draw and both teams have now gone six games without a win. Jim Jeffries, the Hearts manager, is delighted that the Premier League is closing down until January 30.

"I was without ten of my first-team squad because of injury and suspension," he said. "Now that we have the break, I expect to have players of quality back when we resume and that should give a new cutting edge to the team."

### TENNIS

## Sampras gambles in pursuit of title record

By Julian Muscat  
Tennis Correspondent

PETE SAMPRAS has taken a calculated gamble in his decision to miss the Australian Open, the first grand-slam tournament of the season, which starts in Melbourne on January 18. It will be the first blue ribbon event that Sampras has missed for seven years. Sampras, claiming "mental and physical exhaustion," thus eschews an opportunity to match Roy Emerson's record haul of 12 grand-slam titles. Instead the American, who has never reached the final of the French Open on clay, puts all his eggs into the Wimbledon and US Open baskets as he resumes his record quest.

Sampras, 27, warned that he would cut back his tournament commitments after a hectic 1998 schedule saw him retain his world No 1 status for the sixth consecutive year. To do that he was obliged to contest six successive events in Europe — between October and December. That represented a debilitating workload for a man who has always paced himself through the season.

Twice the Australian Open champion, in 1994 and three years later, Sampras's reasons for missing Melbourne are doubtless



Sampras exhausted

rooted in his performance there last year. After a late-season injury in the 1997 Davis Cup final, the American was underprepared before he succumbed to Karol Kucera in the quarter-finals. He then lost his motivation, which only returned when he won Wimbledon for the fifth time in July.

Sampras has regularly protested that he is obliged to play too much tennis in a calendar year. However, having trumped Jimmy Connors's record of five successive years as world No 1, Sampras has clearly redefined his priorities for 1999. He recently confirmed that he will not represent the United States in the Davis Cup, thus ruling himself out of the world group first-round tie against Great Britain in April.

Amanda Coetzer and Wayne Ferreira, of South Africa, dashed the hopes of a bolsterous home crowd on Sunday when they disposed of their Australia opponents 2-1 in the opening session of the Hopman Cup mixed-team tournament. Coetzer set off at a cracking pace and overwhelmed Jelena Dokic 6-1, 6-0 in just 47 minutes.

Ferreira then secured the tie, much to the disappointment of 7,500 fans in the Burswood Dome, by eclipsing Mark Philippoussis 6-2, 6-3. The Australian pair, who cannot afford to lose another tie in the round-robin phase if they are to qualify for the final next Saturday, salvaged some pride by claiming the dead mixed doubles rubber 6-2, 6-3.

## Wiseman's appeal to fall on deaf ears

By Russell Kempson

KEITH WISEMAN, the Football Association chairman, is expected to be voted out of office at a meeting of the full FA council in London today. Although he will give an impassioned defence of his role in the controversial loan to the Football Association of Wales (FAW), which resulted in the resignation of Graham Kelly, the FA chief executive, last month, his appeal is likely to fall on deaf ears.

Wiseman will face the 91 members of the council and explain why he and Kelly mutually sanctioned a grant of £32 million — later reduced to £900,000 — to the FAW. A skillful orator, well-versed in the art of persuasion, he is then expected to make a token offer of resignation.

If it is rejected, it is believed that the ten-strong executive committee, which has passed a motion of no-confidence in him, will stand down en

masse — throwing the FA into chaos and confusion. If it is accepted, as widely expected, the race to succeed Wiseman will start in earnest.

Geoff Thompson, the FA vice-chairman, was beaten to the post by Wiseman in July 1996 but would receive strong support from large sections of the amateur game. David Sheepshanks, the Ipswich Town chairman, former Football League chairman and also a member of the executive committee, is highly regarded by the more progressive elements within the FA. Ken Bates, the Chelsea chairman, made it known in typically forthright fashion last week that he would be willing to take the job in a caretaker capacity. "There are two main problems to be attacked," he said yesterday. "First, the way the FA is run day-to-day and, secondly, the council and how it operates."

## Blatter receives criticism

By Our Sports Staff

THE BIGGEST shake-up in the history of international football has been launched by Sepp Blatter, the president of Fifa, who has announced proposals to hold the World Cup

every two years. The plan is being studied by the world governing body's executive committee, and, if agreed, would herald a complete change of international football.

The move is guaranteed to be controversial, and England World Cup winner Sir Bobby Charlton has already condemned the proposed change. Blatter believes the present format, with the World Cup played every four years, is out of date and threatened by a proposed European Super League.

He said: "I want a football world championship every two years. Then the national teams will get the rankings they deserve. The existing four-yearly tournament is out of date. It dates from the 1930s, when teams chugged from one continent to another on ships."

Charlton said a move to a biennial tournament would be "very sad".

"I don't see how they could do that because there wouldn't be time to qualify," he said. "My own personal feeling is that every four years is often enough because it's something to look forward to. You have to wait for it and it increases the whole value of it. I just hope it's not based on finance."



Blatter: bold proposals

"When it comes from Sepp Blatter, the Fifa president, you take it seriously because he won't have said it lightly. But my own feeling is that it wouldn't have the same attraction."

Blatter's plan would see qualification for the finals take place in odd-numbered years when national teams would take part in continental tournaments.

It would mean the present European championships format would have to be scrapped and perhaps become a qualifying competition. Any changes could not come into force before 2006 — when England are bidding to stage the tournament.

Alec McGivern, director of the England 2006 campaign, and Steve Double, the Football Association spokesman, both gave a cautious reaction to the proposals, while the Scottish FA called them unworkable.

McGivern said: "It is an interesting idea but it would need to be looked at very carefully."

## Bassett quick to deny departure

By Our Sports Staff

DAVE BASSETT promised to continue as the Nottingham Forest manager yesterday and warned that reports of his departure were wide of the mark. Bassett was furious after a local radio station reported that he had resigned after his side's FA Cup exit at home to Portsmouth.

Angry fans chanted for Bassett and the Forest board to be sacked after the 1-0 defeat to the first division strugglers, that comes just days after the club extended its dire run in the FA Cup to 17 matches without a win.

But Bassett insisted, despite his non-appearance at the post-match press conference, that he was just feeling ill and had no intention of quitting. "I have not quit. I have not resigned," he said. "If people want to think that if you don't win, then you resign then that is their interpretation, but they have got it completely

wrong. They obviously don't know me."

John Gregory, the Aston Villa manager, breathed a sigh of relief yesterday, even though Alan Thompson, the left-sided midfielder player, will be sidelined for a month.

Gregory admitted that he initially thought that Thompson had broken his ankle in a freak training ground accident at the club's Bodmoor Heath complex on Friday, but his £45 million summer-signing from Bolton Wanderers was diagnosed as suffering damaged ligaments.

"I really feared the worst at first," he said. "We all thought he had broken it with the way he went down and was screaming with pain."

Gregory will not make any new signings to compensate for the loss of Thompson and feels he has sufficient strength in depth with Ian Taylor set to return after a groin strain.

## Welling continue recovery

WELLING United showed the resilience for which they are renowned by battling to a stirring 2-1 victory over Dover Athletic in the Football Conference at Crabble on Saturday. Having hit their lowest ebb, when losing 3-0 at home to Dover on Boxing Day, an eleventh match without a win, Welling had stopped the rot last Monday with victory at Hayes.

Kevin Hales, the manager, said: "I think I must have read

Non-League Football  
By Walter Gammie

a book on Houdini. The Boxing Day defeat was a very poor performance by everybody. Straight after the game, we had a meeting for about 45 minutes to try and air our differences. It was heat-of-the-moment stuff and gave players the chance to say things that they might not have said if it was held a day or two afterwards."

The benefits were clear on Saturday as Welling shrugged off going behind to a goal by Carruthers in the second minute and a bad miss by Derek Brown soon afterwards. In the second half Brown played in a pass turned into his net by Munday and then Stafford Brown, restored to favour after the Boxing Day debacle, scored the winner. "We can't wait for Saturday now," Hales said. Forest Green Rovers, beware.

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20/1 2-1 15/2	DRAW .. PRESTON 12/1	10/1 EYRES (P)
30/1 3-0 10/1	DRAW .. DRAW 4/1	10/1 HARRIS (P)
55/1 3-1 10/1	DRAW .. ARSENAL 4/1	10/1 NOGHOUB (A)
40/1 3-2 22/1	ARSENAL .. PRESTON 40/1	14/1 PETT (A)
8/1 0-0 6/1	ARSENAL .. DRAW 14/1	14/1 VERRA (A)
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# Dreary presentation is a monkey on Sky's back

There is a sequence right at the end of *The Great Railway Bazaar* in which Paul Theroux, that eternally testy traveller, at last completing his interminable train journey around Asia, is overcome by violent, soul-weary misanthropy as he heads homewards on the Trans-Siberian express.

Nothing serious. Just a deep and powerful loathing for all trains, all people who work on trains, all people who travel on trains, and all humanity besides. "Monkey!" he shouts at the ticketman. "Monkey!" at the buffet attendant. "Monkey!" at some hapless fellow traveller.

I must say, I know how he feels, as the Trans-Australian

express of Test match cricket limps into Sydney, England's performance has suffered from leaves on the line and the wrong sort of snow, but just when you think things could get no worse, we get Ian Botham telling us about it.

"Monkey!" I shout at the screen. "Monkey!" at the commentators. "Monkey!" at the Barmy Army. "Monkey!" at the tolerant acceptance of other people's pleasures, but really, what is the point of standing in the sun for six hours consuming 30 bottles of beer and saying Barmy Army 200,000 times? Monkey!

And the adverts — the adverts. There is a gentlemanly convention among people who

write about television that the advertisements are exempted from discussion; not really part of the experience. But we cannot avoid them. We even miss the odd ball to see them.

"Monkey!" at the shaving advert. "Monkey!" at the latest Sky promo — has any television network ever spent so many hours selling itself? "Monkey!" at the beer advert. "Monkey!" and "monkey!" again at the car adverts.

It wasn't so bad on Saturday. True, I felt a bit monkeyish as the Waugh twins were doing their stuff, and doubly monkeyish at the thought of how many sub-editors would be sending down headlines about Spoils of Waugh and Theatre of Waugh and so on.



SIMON BARNES

PROGRAMME NOTES

But it is a fact of life that there is nothing about watching Australia bat that a few wickets will not cure, and Gough's hat-trick was the very stuff of television. Great sport, a great achievement by a man made for the medium. Gough's relish for combat is one of the great assets of the England team. Television needs athletes who cannot help but communicate their

joys and their anguish. Botham had this gift when he played. What a pity he is as a commentator. Sky have assembled a pretty drab team, and Botham is the Sky-borne emperor of banality. Monkey!

I have lost count of the number of replays I have seen of Gough waving a stump and shouting his hymn of victory to the departing Australians in

the last incongruous and victorious Test match in Melbourne. What was he saying? Answers on a postcard, please. I think I can make out two of the words, and the general tone of the oration seems to have been that Australia should go away.

Alas, they have not done so. Sunday morning's dawn stint was one to make the most stoical person 'monkey'. And the commentators were droning on and on about the competition format for the World Cup. I suppose the chaps were flagging a bit too, but their job is to try not to show it.

Then on and on about who will captain Australia in the one-day series coming up and whether or not it would be

Shane Warne. Really, chaps, we have live action — can't we concentrate on that? Sometimes, watching sport on television is like watching a play with two people in the seats behind you talking about the price of soapflakes.

And all this while the England cricket team were not quite collapsing in their usual melodramatic way, just subsiding like a soufflé, the high hopes of Melbourne slowly whiffing down into a plate of soggy scrambled egg.

There are two kinds of cricket captain, and two kinds of commentators. The best ones are a step ahead of the action, anticipating, questioning, trying things. The second raters are the ones who follow the

ball, reacting, going through the motions, making a stock response to a stock situation.

Alec Stewart, excellent chap that he is, is of the latter kind. So, alas, are most of the Sky commentary team. Mark Nicholas, shortly to be heading the new Channel 4 broadcasts of the home Test matches, has less of that than his colleagues, but it still doesn't place him in the Benauld class.

Ah well. The Test series has had its moments, and it has been wonderful to have both the live action and the extended highlights. That is enough, really. I'm left feeling just a tiny bit like Humphrey Bogart in *Casablanca* as the Test series comes to an end. At least we'll always have Melbourne.

Ambition hoping bright n

'What chance did this backwater town have against those wide boys of Fulham?'

## Nutty charm of dwelling in the dingy Dell

I suppose if you visit The Dell regularly, the pleasure wears off. But I was so pleased to see that the advertising board at Southampton FC (remembered from two years ago still reacts to each corner awarded with the legend "Don't Get Stuck in a Corner... Phone Post Windows") that I got quite sentimental. What a sweet, dingy little place Southampton is. Yet until recently, quite honestly, who had heard of it?

"This is what the FA Cup is all about," I cheered myself. "Obscure little clubs like Southampton making a name for themselves, widening the horizons of their fans." Before the match, I bought some nuts from a woman in a shopping precinct. "In London, these would be double the price," I informed her, by way of chummy, price-of-nuts conversation. But she snapped back: "I've never been to London," as if I ought to know it. A salutary moment, as I think you will agree. What chance did this backwater town have against those wide boys of Fulham arriving this afternoon? Well, none whatsoever, obviously.

The inequity between the two teams was startling, from every angle. The Dell is smaller than Craven Cottage. Fulham have won 15 league games this season, Southampton, three. Recently, Southampton recruited Hassan Kachoul, a cheap Moroccan midfielder, from Metz, and because of the low terrain surrounding him, he has quickly become the Matterhorn of the outfit. Evidently, if you add up the cost of the Fulham side, it runs into the usual millions, whereas if you add up the cost of Southampton, it's the same as a bag of nuts. The home crowd is noisy and passionate, however, which is all the more of an achievement when you remember that every time something interesting happens on their pitch, they are enjoined to forget about football altogether and think about up-market double-glazing.

So the fairytale version of this third-round match on Saturday would have found David Jones's team nicking a draw in the last

minute and, good heavens, that's exactly what happened. The Cup at its best, eh? Fulham went ahead after nine minutes with a classy goal from Steve Hayward, well set up by Geoff Horsfield. The London side dominated the first half with energy and invention, and moreover looked dashing in yellow. Southampton faltered about, ineffectually, in red and white. "You don't know what you're doing," chanted the Dell crowd. Evidently the supporters had a crazy notion (contrary to recent Worthington Cup evidence) that Southampton should be beating Fulham, instead

LYNNE TRUSS



of the other way round.

Now, at half-time, with Fulham one up, it was time to consider what each team really wanted from this match. Fulham are at present very busy winning the second division; rationally, they might not want to dissipate their energies in the FA Cup. On the other hand, their "chief operating officer" is Kevin Keegan, who not only adores limelight, but has been deprived of it for some time, despite his record at Craven Cottage. "Nice to be back," he told the BBC's Barry Davies on Saturday

— a giveaway remark, I thought, when he hadn't been away anywhere. So, Southampton, if we might prefer not to proceed in the Cup, since arguably they need all their strength to keep running on the spot at the bottom of the Premiership.

So the second half kicked off as a more complicated affair, as if everyone had been thinking too hard at half-time, and their brains hurt. Suddenly, Fulham were all defence and Southampton (albeit rather weedily) was all attack, although personally, I thought Fulham were still calling the shots. "That's unusual," an equally suspicious Fulham fan beside me, said. "A Keegan side with six at the back?" Was this a case of shutting up shop? Or was it (tee-hee) a gilded invitation to Southampton to explore the other end of the pitch, and try a few shots?

Well, it's only a paranoid suggestion. I have doubtless been mentally unbalanced by too many episodes of *The X-Files*. All I do know is that Southampton did not improve, yet saw more of the action; and that as Southampton repeatedly failed to equalise in the second half, Keegan systematically substituted his best players, and in the 89th minute actually put on Paul Trollope — "the worst player we've got" being the heartfelt groan of the Fulham fan beside me — which is the football manager's equivalent of putting a gun in your own ear. And it worked.

Almost immediately, you see, in the second minute of extra time, the hapless Trollope goofed in the penalty box, kicking the ball against Alan Nielsen, his teammate, who was standing two feet behind him, so that it rebounded and fell neatly to Egil Olsenstad. True, Olsenstad was lying on the ground at the time, but it was still a gift. "For me?" Egil said, gazing up in disbelief, as time stood still. "Wow, thanks." With a rather cunning horizontal shot, he equalised and was warmly thanked by Keegan rather than his own boss as he loped off to the dressing-room a confused hero.



Hayward scores for Fulham but Southampton, the underdogs, fought back bravely to earn a replay in the bright lights of the capital

So was this all a clever set-up? Well, Jones looked a bit depressed afterwards, so no clues there. When asked whether Olsenstad's goal was lucky, the Southampton manager said: "No goal is lucky" — which can be taken in a variety of ways. Meanwhile Kevin ("nice

to be back") Keegan looked suspiciously full of beans for a man who'd just seen his team throw away victory at the last minute. He mentioned as often as possible that in the replay at Craven Cottage on January 12, he hoped for a capacity crowd of 19,000. "If 19,000 don't

show up for such a match," he said, "we'll know we're wasting our time."

So Southampton's fairytale hopes are not over yet. The big flashy London team has given the little parochial side another chance. Southampton are known

locally as the Saints, you know. Surely the whole country should get behind them before January 12, a bit like Rushden and Diamonds? Come on you Saints. Make the journey to the Big Bad Smoke on Tuesday week, don't be scared. Just take your own nuts, that's all.

## SPORTS LETTERS

### No place for bad language

From Mr A. Challoner

Sir, Foul and abusive language has no place on the cricket field and it should be punished expeditiously by the offending player being sent off. Due to the length of play in cricket, this would need to be done in a different way to that in football. I suggest:

Immediately after the offence, the player is sent off the field of play and must not enter it again until six hours of further play has taken place. At that point he may return. If he commits a similar offence in the same match, he should be sent off for the remainder of that match. In addition he should not be allowed to play in the next game in that competition.

There is another play entering the game that also needs to be stamped out. This happens when a batsman starts his run and a fielding player (often with his back to the batsman) deliberately positions himself so that the batsman has to take a course out of the straight line, in order to avoid a collision. A possible punishment for this would be:

If the fielder is a bowler, he should not be allowed to bowl another ball for the next 30 minutes of play. If he is

### Early footballing achievements devalued

From Mr Kevin McIntosh

Sir, There is always something special in your Sporting Day issue and, with The Best League Table in the World... Even, I wasn't disappointed.

But my beloved Sunderland were not even in the top ten. Why? Because the table awards progressively more points for more recent achievements. The magnificent early achievements of Everton and Aston Villa have been devalued. Eighty points have been awarded for a pre-First World War championship as opposed to 140 for a similar achievement in the Premiership.

You justify the criteria by stating that "the Premiership has brought the added pressure for teams chasing the championship of having to negotiate televised matches when their rivals

have already played and might have the points in the bag. It is also the age of the high-profile foreign import."

I cannot accept this and neither should any decent football fan. In 1897 Aston Villa achieved a remarkable league and Cup double, gaining 140 points in your analysis. However, if they had done this last May they would have been awarded 255 points, a difference of 115 I agree that standards of fitness and coaching have improved, but surely the achievement is the same.

Please reconsider and put my beloved Sunderland back where they belong.

Yours faithfully,  
KEVIN MCINTOSH,  
4 Turrecross Way, Parkside Grange,  
Cramlington, Northumberland NE25 9PE.

another fielder then he should not be allowed to enter the cricket square for the next 30 minutes of play.

Yours faithfully,  
ALAN CHALLONER,  
13 The Village,  
Bodelwyddan,  
Denbighshire LL18 5UR.

From Mr Geoffrey Bubb  
Sir, Alan Lee spoils his report (December 30) by describing Dean Headley as "this engaging Brummie".

Headley never was, and never will be, a "Brummie". He was born in Stourbridge in the Black Country and enjoyed his cricket as a youth at the historic Oldswinford Hospital School in the same town.

Yours faithfully,  
GEOFFREY BUBB,  
38 Breckley Drive,  
Kingswinford,  
West Midlands DY6 9DT.

### Football salaries

From Mr Colin Riegels

Sir, Mr Nigel Phillips (letter, December 28) suggests that salary caps are a suitable way to control spiralling player's salaries in the FA Premier League and cites their success in the United States.

Sadly, it is unlikely any such limitation would be legally acceptable in this country. Although salary capping is conceptually illegal in the United States, leading sports are allowed to do it either because of

exceptions to the anti-trust legislation (baseball) or because of collective bargaining agreements with players' unions (basketball, American football, ice hockey).

The real reasoning that drives this "financial lunacy" is a combination of laws which are designed purely to promote economic interests and football clubs who exist only to attain sporting success at any price. The parous financial state of Real Madrid, the European champions, illustrates the truth of this.

Yours faithfully,  
COLIN RIEGELS,  
First Floor Flat,  
40 Cottleigh Road,  
London NW6 2NP.

### Pallister's road to fame

From Mr Victor Watton

Sir, As Gary Pallister's college RE teacher, I would like to correct the mistaken information contained in your article (December 19).

Gary told the economics teacher, who managed the first XI, to "sod off" and so was expelled from the first XI after one match.

I was in charge of the college second XI and found Gary playing centre forward on the "left-overs" (at this time the college only had two teams). I put him in the second XI as a centre back and we won the Cleveland Schools Under-19 B division title.

The economics teacher refused to let Gary back on to his team and so Gary spent his college career as a second division player!

Yours faithfully,  
VICTOR W. WATTON,  
15 Bedale Grove,  
Stockton-on-Tees  
TS19 7QY.

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مركز الامن لاصحاب



## BOWLS

# Ambitious Potter hoping to mould bright new future

THE ancient sport of bowls, which has been going through an identity crisis for the past 20 years or so, has, it seems, finally arrived at its destination — an upmarket leisure resort at Hopton-on-Sea in Norfolk, where the world indoor bowls championships get under way today.

Potters Leisure Resort, whose owner, Brian Potter, built a state-of-the-art International Bowls Arena to house the championships, is putting £1.5 million into the sport over four years.

Potter openly declared his aim of making Potters the centre of the world of bowls and made no secret of the fact that he wanted to entice the World Bowls Tour (WBT) away from the Preston Guild Hall for the International Open, which he did last October.

Now he has claimed the world singles and pairs championships as well — and the new event is bigger and brighter than ever. The record prize purse of £63,000, and a £25,000 cheque for the winner of the singles, may not put bowls in the same class as snooker, but it is not to be sneezed at.

The field for the singles has been increased from 32 to 48, giving the chance to more outsiders to break into the game's closely guarded elite, and the championships will last for three weeks.

The journey of the sport's

**David Rhys Jones reports on the impact made by a man with clear intentions**

flagship event from the unpretentious Coatbridge bowls club in Scotland, where it was played between 1979 and 1987, to the Potters Leisure Resort, via Alexandra Palace and the Preston Guild Hall, is an interesting one.

It is as though the game, played by about a million people in Britain and in 40 countries through the world, has been searching for its spiritual home, not to mention its true identity. Is it a competitive sport — or a recreational pastime?

Part of the trouble with bowls is its image. It does not know whether it is a cosy recreation for people in cardigans, or a modern, sexy sport for athletes. In reality, of course, it is both.

A glance at the audience at Potters will confirm that most spectators are more than 50 years of age. They will look unimpressed like an audience for Mrs Merton's chat show. That is part of the reason why sponsors are hard to find.

However, it would be wrong to condemn the sport because

old people watch it. The average age of the spectators at golf and snooker events is manifestly higher than that of the competitors, but they are not labelled games for old men.

Almost all the players on the portable rink at Potters will be under 40, and the winner is almost certain to be in his 20s or 30s. The last Phyllosan-user to win a televised bowls event was Terry Sullivan, who was 49 when he won the world title in 1985.

Bowls can give retired people something to do when they are too old for football, cricket or tennis, but these days no one who takes the game up in their later years stands a chance of competing at the highest level.

The BBC has been screening bowls for more than 20 years and is committed to the sport. It gets value for money because viewing figures are consistently good.

Bowlers themselves do not make good spectators. They would rather be out there, rolling woods down the rink for themselves. But armchair viewers will be tuning in in their millions when the cameras arrive for the final week of the singles championship.

With a new home in what is generally accepted to be the finest residential bowls centre in the world, bowls is committed to delivering the goods as a televised sport, albeit without scandals, controversial characters and media hype that is seemingly compulsory in other sports.

"Previous figures suggest that we will start our week on television (cameras will roll on Friday, January 15) with something around two million viewers on BBC2, and finish with upwards of three million," Gordon Dunwoodie, the World Bowls Tour's chief executive, said yesterday.

If his figures are correct, bowls is lagging only slightly behind snooker. The players will continue to amaze with their skills — and if Potters can stimulate a vibrant following for the sport, sponsors may begin to recognise its qualities.

## Lack of snow proves no handicap, as Mel Webb discovers



Driving force: Tommy Carter and his canine colleagues make their challenge at a decidedly snow-free Cannock. Photograph: Richard Cannon

There are some disciplines in sport that require special qualities, pre-eminently among which is the participants' refusal to accept that the odds militate so heavily against them that it is a wonder they bother — Swiss round-the-world sailors and Jamaican bobsleighters spring immediately to mind, along with ice skaters from French tropical islands and Dutch mountaineers.

The common strand that links these people is that the medium that they need in which, or on which, to practise their craft is, for reasons of geography or climate, or both, in short supply. Switzerland has a singular lack of coastline. It does not often snow in the Caribbean, frozen water is in short supply in Oceania and Holland is decidedly flat. Yet still these brave souls plough on regardless. What trouper they are.

It is no coincidence that three of the foregoing fall into the realm of winter sports, in which a fairly consistent degree of severe meteorological inclemency is a standard prerequisite. This is the story of another such competitive endeavour. Meet Britain's dog-sledgers.

"Snow in this country is awful, sloppy, wet stuff," J.M. Litman, one of Britain's leading drivers (known as "mushers"), said at the second leg of the British championships, held on a forest trail in Cannock, near Birm-

ingham, over the weekend. Deep and crisp and even is what they want, and their search for it continues in vain.

The solution, as it is for mushers in South America and just about anywhere else in the many other parts of the world where the sport has taken a hold, is to abandon the runners of a sled and resort instead to wheels. The vehicles upon which they race are lightweight tricycles weighing no more than 30lb, weird and wonderful tributes to engineering ingenuity, light alloy tubing and welding.

Frail, insubstantial vehicles they are, and when mushers and their teams, which can number anything from two to six dogs, are going at full pelt they nudge 30mph. And when that is all that separates mushers from a violent collision with something hard and unyielding — like a tree — it represents a distinct declaration of the faith that

the human beings have in their dogs' hearing the commands for "left" or "right". Between the dogs, the huge majority of which are Siberian huskies, and their owners there is a profound reliance based on mutual trust and affection. Both know that the other will never let them down, and it is at once thrilling and touching to watch it in action.

It was a picture of contented domesticity that was at odds with the intensity with which men, women and their dogs competed against each other on a bright, diamond-cold day in a forest in middle England. No matter that there were wheels on the vehicles instead of runners, limiting, barking, leaping, bundles of hyperactivity whose instinct is to hunt. They no longer need to do that to survive, so their energy is manifested in a willingness to run and run. Litman, 30, has been British four-dog champion four times and is the man to beat again this year.

A former track athlete, he has his roots in the music business and makes his living designing Internet sites, but to chat with him is to talk to a man who lives for his dogs, a charge to which he cheerfully admits.

"Getting involved in this goes further than sport," he said. "Owning and racing dogs is a whole lifestyle; we are all here primarily because of our love for the breed. They remain, basically, pure-bred working dogs, but at the same time they love to curl up in front of the fire or pinch the duvet if they get half a chance."

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## Mushers dogged in pursuit of sledding

Dog-sled racing is a big sport in the frozen north of North America, but that is only to be expected. Whatever Alaska lacks, it is not snow upon which to race. In the seven years that the British dog-sled racing championships have been running, it has snowed only once. But it has not put off these plucky men and women and their equally enthusiastic dogs.

Oh, they all have sleds, but they know that they will use them less frequently than once in a blue moon, and even if it does snow, they also know that, just as it was in such times for the old British Rail, it will be the wrong sort of snow.

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ingham, over the weekend. Deep and crisp and even is what they want, and their search for it continues in vain.

The solution, as it is for mushers in South America and just about anywhere else in the many other parts of the world where the sport has taken a hold, is to abandon the runners of a sled and resort instead to wheels. The vehicles upon which they race are lightweight tricycles weighing no more than 30lb, weird and wonderful tributes to engineering ingenuity, light alloy tubing and welding.

Frail, insubstantial vehicles they are, and when mushers and their teams, which can number anything from two to six dogs, are going at full pelt they nudge 30mph. And when that is all that separates mushers from a violent collision with something hard and unyielding — like a tree — it represents a distinct declaration of the faith that

the human beings have in their dogs' hearing the commands for "left" or "right". Between the dogs, the huge majority of which are Siberian huskies, and their owners there is a profound reliance based on mutual trust and affection. Both know that the other will never let them down, and it is at once thrilling and touching to watch it in action.

It was a picture of contented domesticity that was at odds with the intensity with which men, women and their dogs competed against each other on a bright, diamond-cold day in a forest in middle England. No matter that there were wheels on the vehicles instead of runners, limiting, barking, leaping, bundles of hyperactivity whose instinct is to hunt. They no longer need to do that to survive, so their energy is manifested in a willingness to run and run. Litman, 30, has been British four-dog champion four times and is the man to beat again this year.

A former track athlete, he has his roots in the music business and makes his living designing Internet sites, but to chat with him is to talk to a man who lives for his dogs, a charge to which he cheerfully admits.

"Getting involved in this goes further than sport," he said. "Owning and racing dogs is a whole lifestyle; we are all here primarily because of our love for the breed. They remain, basically, pure-bred working dogs, but at the same time they love to curl up in front of the fire or pinch the duvet if they get half a chance."

It was a picture of contented domesticity that was at odds with the intensity with which men, women and their dogs competed against each other on a bright, diamond-cold day in a forest in middle England. No matter that there were wheels on the vehicles instead of runners, limiting, barking, leaping, bundles of hyperactivity whose instinct is to hunt. They no longer need to do that to survive, so their energy is manifested in a willingness to run and run. Litman, 30, has been British four-dog champion four times and is the man to beat again this year.

## ICE HOCKEY

## Rockman finds life rough at the top

By NORMAN DE MESQUITA

THE Bracknell Bees' goal-tending problems contributed to their surprising 9-3 defeat by the struggling London Knights in the Superleague.

In the absence of Mark Bernard and Brian Greer, who are both injured, the Bees have been using Richard Wallace, on loan from Slough Jets. But Wallace was required by the Jets on Saturday and so the Bees used Greg Rockman, 16, of Cardiff Rage, the Devils' junior team, which plays in the English League. The youngster did his best but was playing at least three levels above what he normally experiences and the outcome was therefore hardly surprising.

The two points lifted London into seventh place, level with the Sheffield Steelers, who had asked for the game against Nottingham Panthers on Saturday to be postponed because of a flu bug. In the event, only Tony Hand and Trevor Wynne were missing, but several of those playing were at less than 100 per cent.

Ken Priestley and Paul Adey exchanged first-period goals and the Steelers led 2-1 at the second interval, thanks to a goal by David Longstaff, who scored from close in. But the Steelers predictably ran out of steam in the third period and the Panthers took control with goals from Simon Hunt, Mike Bishop and Jason Weaver.

The National Hockey League (NHL) is believed to be considering opening its regular season with two games in England next October, with the likely venues the London Arena and the MEN Arena in Manchester. For the past two years, two teams have visited Japan to open the season, but the NHL has been unhappy with the public response. The two teams likely to make the trip to England are the Los Angeles Kings and the Ottawa Senators.

## Adams makes most of indoor opportunities

By JOHN GOODBODY

For many years, even outstanding schoolboy cricketers never touched a bat or ball between July and the next April. Perhaps they might have had some odd matches during the holidays but, for the rest of the year, the game was a fond memory — and an enticing prospect.

Not any more. Many talented players now practise regularly during the winter months in the indoor nets, which are becoming increasingly commonplace in schools. James Adams, the 18-year-old left-hander at Sherborne School, is typical.

Last year he scored a cluster of centuries for the Hampshire representative teams and also 106 against Pakistan for the Midlands Under-19 side. Having already played for England Under-17s, he has the potential to have an outstanding career as an adult.

However, cricket now demands a more regular commitment than Lord Sheppard of Liverpool needed to give during the 1940s, when the former England captain was also a pupil at Sherborne.



Adams is enthusiastically honing his skills at Sherborne

Adams said: "It is necessary to try to maintain one's standard. When April comes, it is an advantage for someone to have had nets during the winter, otherwise you forget what a cricket ball looks like."

This is particularly important now that the summer term is so short, beginning in mid-April when the weather, as in 1998, is often appalling, and cut in two by exams. If schools do not practise in the winter, their boys will sometimes have little opportunity to hone their technique.

Adams, from Pitt, near Winchester, could have toured New Zealand this month with the England Under-19 squad but it would have meant missing the coming term, including mock A-level exams. For someone hoping for a place at

Oxford, he had to turn down the opportunity.

He said: "I was obviously disappointed but going was really an impossibility. It was a difficult decision but one that I had to make." He has still benefited from being able to take part in some of the pre-tour sessions.

Mike Norton, who has been master-in-charge of cricket at Sherborne for 12 years, said of Adams's ability: "He can really hit the ball but is also a sound defensive player. He is one of those rare schoolboys capable of scoring a century. If James is not out within 20 minutes, then you are quite confident that he will make a least 50 or 60, whereas with other boys you are sometimes expecting them to get out in the next ball."

"He times the ball particularly well through the covers but also plays it well through mid-wicket, which is unusual for a schoolboy. Like any good player he hates getting out, whereas some come back to the pavilion with grins on their faces."

Alan Willows, the Sherborne professional, added: "He is a very accomplished schoolboy batsman but whether he takes it up on the professional circuit is partly up to him. It may be a question of whether he wants to do it."

"Most public schoolboys are front-foot players and are not so good on bouncy wickets. However, James can also hook and cut the ball. We have had slower wickets in the past at Sherborne but now the new groundsmen is making them quicker."

After being encouraged by his father, Mike, James began shining in the game at Twyford, near Winchester. This prep school has been a remarkable cradle of the game, with one team alone producing three England schoolboy players.

Recently, Willows and Tony Middleton, the Hampshire coach, have been formative influences, emphasising the value of concentration and patience. Adams said: "When you get to fifty, you must not lose your head. You have to concentrate on the next fifty."

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SAILING: BRITON BROODS ON A TWIST OF FORTUNE THAT ENDED HIS HOPES IN AROUND ALONE RACE

# Golding pays heavy price for mistake

By EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

SINGLE-HANDED ocean racing is a high-risk sport. The peaks can be of Everest proportions, the troughs worse than the depths of the deepest ocean. Yet reverses are always more bearable if events can be said to be out of one's control, as, for example, hitting an unseen floating object, losing a rudder or being turned over by an exceptional wave.

Herein lies Mike Golding's agony. Not only have his chances of winning the Around Alone race disappeared, but he cannot avoid the fact that the awful and un-

Yesterday, with *Team Group 4* still in harbour at Manamou, about 150 miles north of Auckland, Golding described for the first time what happened shortly before dusk on Friday. Initial reports suggested the boat had hit a floating object, but in fact it ploughed into a sandbank less than two miles off Cape Renga.

The crash caused immediate and severe damage to the wing keel — the specialised keel which enables the boat to travel faster than conventional yachts — and the main bulkhead, resulting in a rapid ingress of water that would have sunk the boat, had it not been fitted with watertight compartments.

At the time, Golding was plotting his position manually on his charts and also was using electronic charts. The area has strong currents, broken water and shoaling, but Golding had fixed a course for himself which he thought would keep him safely to seaward of all dangers.

"I must have just skimmed a small bank that's not that clear on the charts I have — I must have made a mistake," he said yesterday. "I was probably sucked in slightly by the current — actually more than slightly because I felt what I was doing was fairly conservative but, clearly, it wasn't. I really haven't got many good excuses, I'm afraid."

One look down below and a cursory inspection of the keel was enough for him to realise he was in deep trouble. His feelings then and now? "I'm just devastated," he said. "You know, I feel very emotional about it naturally — it's just so much work wasted for everyone, the sponsors and my support crew."

When we started this programme we decided to do the



Golding cuts a disconsolate figure on his stricken yacht off the coast of New Zealand. Photograph: Mark Pepper

Around Alone to gear ourselves up for the Vendée Globe in 2000, but the reality was that we found ourselves doing so well that I believed we could have won it and we were well on our way to doing that. To have lost all that in such a really stupid way is just mind-blowingly depressing."

Today, *Team Group 4* is being towed to Auckland, where she will be hauled out and a decision will be made as to whether she can be repaired in time to take part in the next leg to Punta del Este, which starts on February 6. Under the rules Golding cannot qualify for any overall prizes in the race because he has now been disqualified from leg two for

accepting a tow of more than ten miles.

Despite his depressed state of mind, Golding would like to continue if the boat can be made ready in time. "We could still do well in the next two legs," he said. "Even if the prospect of an overall win has gone, we could create some sort of a moral victory and it's still good for me in terms of expanding my experience."

All black clouds end up having a silver lining for most but the former Berkshire fireman cannot see one yet. "I suppose this is a test of character or a test of your resolve to do something," he said, "but at this stage I can't see a positive side."

## Autissier goes clear

ISABELLE AUTISSIER, of France, was yesterday confirmed as the new Around Alone race leader after bringing *PRB* into Auckland at the end of a remarkable leg (Edward Gorman writes). Not only did she stop in Tasmania for repairs but she also hit a whale in the final few miles, forcing her to race with an emergency rudder.

Favourable winds helped Autissier to catch up with her fellow countryman, Marc Thierciel, in *Somewhere*, and she finished the leg in third place just an hour after him.

With Mike Golding out of contention, Autissier now has a total lead of five hours and 57 minutes over Thierciel with Giovanni Soldini in *FILA*, who was first to Auckland on Friday, in third place, more than 24 hours adrift.

For a moment on Saturday Autissier thought her luck was going the same way as Golding's when she hit the whale. "I was outside and I had a big shock," she said. "I could see the animal at the surface and went off with my rudder."

## BASKETBALL

## Expulsion propels Sheffield closer to the top

By NICHOLAS HARLING

THE disqualification of Casey Arena, Thames Valley Tigers' high-scoring guard, hastened Sheffield Sharks to a Budweiser League victory yesterday that seriously threatens the leadership of Manchester Giants.

Arena, a 24-year-old American from Boston, and Adrian Anderson, were expelled from the game, which was won 108-92 by the Sharks, for fighting as the third quarter ended. The loss of Arena, a product of the University of Maine, was felt far more acutely by the Tigers than the Sharks missed Anderson, who only comes off their bench for short periods.

Only John McCord, the scorer of 24 points, had done more to keep the Tigers in contention for an upset when Arena departed. Six minutes earlier he had reduced Sharks' 11-point advantage to 62-59 with a characteristic drive to the basket but it was then that the frustration of Anderson's close marking got to him.

"Why don't you keep out of my face?" he apparently said to the Englishman, who defended himself as the pair came to blows. When they were separated, Paul James, the Tigers coach, incurred a technical offence for kicking over an advertising hoarding.

With no one of Arena's versatility to run their back court and no one to compensate for the absence of Jason Siemon, their 6ft 9in centre who was still missing because of injury, the Tigers fell apart during the next five minutes. From being 79-71 adrift, they were suddenly 93-73 in arrears as the Sharks headed for their second victory of an encouraging weekend.

The winning margin would have been even greater had Julio Polla not added to his 28 points towards Tigers' 120-102 victory over Chester Jets the previous evening with another 18. His weekend haul of three pointers was a dozen, which was too many for the liking of Chris Finch, the Sharks coach, who complained: "We kept on giving away big leads and we made hard work of the whole weekend."

Terrell Myers was undoubtedly a key figure for the Sharks, with 25 points last night, and 26 the previous evening in the 84-71 win over Newcastle Eagles.

Manchester Giants, the league leaders, were occupied only in the Uni-ball Trophy group game, in which they overcame Milton Keynes 79-61, but the league's third-placed club, Derby Storm, lost 81-76 to London Towers.

## SPORT IN BRIEF

## Sekjer hits form to see Cyphers through

■ **BOWLS:** Cumbria and Cyphers, both previous winners of the Denny Cup, found the going tough in the sixth round of the national inter-club championship on Saturday, but came through to qualify for the quarter-finals. With three ends to play, Cumbria and Blackpool Newton Hall were all square at 68-68, but the Carlisle side scored a double, a treble and a four to win by nine shots.

Cyphers, 20 shots adrift of Folkestone, were inspired by Martyn Sekjer's maximum count of eight — the bowling equivalent of a hole in one — and went on to win by 19. In the Liberty Trophy yesterday it was Gary Smith, Sekjer's Cyphers and Kent colleague, who dropped an eight on the last end of Kent's quarter-final encounter with Cornwall at Southampton. Cornwall went on to win by one shot and claim a place in the semi-finals against Hampshire. Devon, who led Leicestershire 40-14 after five ends, edged through 125-122, and will meet Durham, the champions, who proved too good for Cambridgeshire.

■ **HOCKEY:** Mel Clewlow, the England defender, helped Canterbury to make an excellent start in the national indoor league when her 15 goals put them on top of the first division at East Grinstead Sports Club yesterday. But it was Linda Webb, from St Austell, who stole the honours with 16 goals for the second division team, including eight in the win on Saturday over Loughborough Students, also undefeated, head the table with Clifton lying second.

■ **MOTOR RALLYING:** Julia Kleinschmidt, the first woman to win a stage in the Dakar Rally two years ago, took the overall lead in the third stage between Agadir and Tan Tan yesterday. The German took advantage of others' mishaps to win the 230km stage in Morocco.

■ **FOOTBALL:** Everton, the women's Premier League champions and beaten 1997 League Cup finalists, and Whitehawk, the Southern Division side, are through to the semi-finals of the AXA FA Women's Premier League Cup. Everton overcame Blyth Spartans 3-0 at Marine FC's ground yesterday, winning 5-0. Whitehawk defeated Langford with two second-half goals.

## SKIING: SWEDEN REGAINS PRIDE BY PRODUCING SURPRISE VICTORY

## Wiberg makes up for lost time

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

PERNILLA WIBERG, of Sweden, made a stunning comeback yesterday to record the fastest run of the day and win the women's World Cup slalom with her first victory of the season in Maribor, Slovenia.

"I didn't think I could win because the time difference after the first run was too big," Wiberg, who was ninth after the first run, said. "I just thought I would be happy finishing in the top five."

The 28-year-old veteran, winner of three Olympic and five world championship medals, completed the two-run slalom in 1min 54.88sec for her 23rd success on the World Cup circuit.

Hilde Gerg, of Germany,

was second, just 29 hundredths of a second behind, while Kristina Koznick, of the US, who was second after the first run, slid to ninth.

"The course didn't hold up very well," Koznick, who cried on her trainer's shoulder at the finish line, said. "Even though I knew there were going to be many runs, I just made too many mistakes."

Wiberg, who had not won a race in two years, proved that she is still a force to contend with. "My skiing has been getting better and better each race," she said. "Now my goal is to win the worlds in Vill in February."

Meanwhile, Noriaki Kasai, of Japan, captured the third stop of the Four Hills Tour World Cup series in Innsbruck, Austria, to halt the winning run of Martin Schmitt, of Germany.

Only Jarne Ahonen, of Finland, broke up a sweep of the top four places by the Japanese, who had been pushed into the background this year by the success of Schmitt, who burst from obscurity to win six of eight World Cup events he has entered this season.

It was Japan's first World Cup win of the season, as Kasai beat Ahonen by 23.25 points to 226.1. Hidetaru Mi-

yahira, of Japan, was third. Schmitt, 20, who had won the first two Four Hills in Germany in impressive style, faded to thirteenth. "I had troubles with my take-off," he said. "I'm a person, not a machine."

Schmitt created a course record of 120.5 metres in qualifying on Saturday but took a bad spill. Afterwards he caused a dispute by complaining about the slope conditions and lack of concern for the safety of the athletes.

Ahonen, who has 813 points, regained the lead in the overall World Cup standings over Schmitt, with 760. The Four Hills event ends on Wednesday at Bischofshofen in Austria.

## HOCKEY

## Reading rebuffed in final

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

VIKINGS, of Denmark, predictably won the DTZ international indoor tournament at Kildermaster yesterday, but they were made to work hard for their 10-8 victory over Reading in the final. As a national side, Vikings understandably looked sharper and their dexterity at corners was a vital factor.

Reading, nevertheless, put up a spirited fight and on three occasions were only a goal behind after having raced into a 2-0 lead in the first seven minutes through goals by Slay, from a corner, and Ashdown. However, a hat-trick by Ulrich in three minutes raised the spirit of the Danes, who soon established their superiority.

Vikings were 6-4 ahead at half-time and they added four more goals during their best spell of the match before Fearn scored two well-taken goals for the English side in the closing minutes.

Reading, who had won their group on Saturday, crushed Barford Tigers 10-2 in the last eight and then beat Harborne 9-4 in the semi-finals. Vikings overcame Stourport 8-5 in the quarter-finals and then defeated Firebrands 10-4 in the last four. Firebrands defeated Harborne 9-6 in the play-off for third place.

Slay, of Reading, was voted the player of the tournament and Keegan, of Beeston, finished as the top goalscorer. Beeston won the plate final with a 5-3 win over Hull.

Photograph page 38.

## Drewett's labour produces a show reel of angling beauty

Brian Clarke enjoys the content of a book to challenge the best of them

I John Drewett ever finds himself on *Mastermind*, he will have no problem picking a specialist subject. I suspect he could say "Hardy Brothers: The Masters, the Men and their Reels, 1873-1939" in his sleep and he probably often has.

Drewett, a London fishing tackle dealer and collector, has just spent the last 15 years researching, writing and privately printing a book of that title. It is a project no publisher could have risked commercially because of its scale and cost. Yet what Drewett has produced is one of the most unusual, idiosyncratic and beautiful publications on an angling subject that the long literature of the sport has seen.

As with most things, it is easy in retrospect to see why the sometime most famous tackle manufacturer in the world should be worthy of a book. The story of the House of Hardy — a name as synonymous with angling as that of Rolls-Royce with cars or Fortnum and Mason with food — is as absorbing a dynamic saga as anything *Dynasty* ever produced.

It was on July 26, 1873, that the two young Hardy brothers — William, 20, and John, 19, — placed an advertisement in "The Alnwick Mercury" to announce that they planned to open a shop together, the following week. They would be "gunsmiths, whitewashers, cutlers etc". Not a mention was made of angling.

A year later, they were advertising again, this time as gunsmiths and fishing tackle makers. By 1877, they were moving to larger premises. In 1881, they took out the first of innumerable patents. By 1895,

they had shops in the best parts of Manchester, Edinburgh and London. By 1901, they had been awarded their first Royal Warrant. By 1913, Rolls-Royce were parking their cars outside Hardy showrooms.

Over the years, fathers, sons, uncles, nephews and in-laws moved into and through the business, the two brothers kept a steady grip all the while. Even family held their jobs on merit. By the 1920s, Hardy Bros were supplying the cream of fishing tackle to the cream of the angling community. Empire-wide. They sold everything and made much — including magnificent rods. Above all, they made reels.

It was his own obsession with reels that wound Drewett into his project. Today, the tackle room of his home outside St Albans is like an annex to the Victoria and Albert Museum. Gleaming glass cases house one of the finest collections of Hardy reels ever put together. Old rods stand to attention on a revolving carousel. Ancient landing nets fan out across the ceiling.

"But it wasn't always like this," he says. "I really only began collecting in 1979. When I first thought somebody should be writing a book about the reels, I had no thought it would end up being me."

In truth, what Drewett has produced is less a book, more a monument. It is a slab of production, as big as a headstone. Even the cheapest hardback version — it sells at £125, but there are other versions avail-

able — weighs 5½lb. Once past the barrier of its surprisingly cluttered cover, an Aladdin's cave opens — for tackle collectors, bibliophiles, angling historians, the idly curious and the many who simply love an off-beat fishing read (enquiries to Woodys of Wembley, 565 High Road, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 2DW).

One of the boldest decisions Drewett made — to give as much space to some of the men in overalls as to the famous men who employed them — is wonderfully vindicated. The owners of old Hardy reels can now look at the initials stamped on the inside of a casing and the master craftsman who fashioned it by hand. The effect is that an object much loved by the owner becomes an integral part of some other person's life — often a life illustrated with faded family photographs and the



Drewett with his treasures

fruits of Drewett's burrowing. And so, alongside the well-known and, one comes to sense, the not-always-attractive Hardys, we meet men like William Dingley. Dingley — the "D" of the reel-stamp — turns out to be the man who developed the Silux casting reel, the product which, with Foster Hardy's "Perfect", was one of the two most famous designs the company ever produced. Joe Johnson (J.A.J.), the solver of knotty problems and the builder of "specials" is there. So is the great Arthur Wall, whose initials A.H.W. adorn some of the finest reels still turning today.

All of it, though, is more than a list of names. It is a superbly photographed and in part by Drewett's own laborator, David. There are the fly reels, the trepins, the multipliers there are the freshwater reels and the sea reels. There are reproductions, ancient advertisements, lists of patents and production records. Humblingly scattered like gnomes' none more delicious than the photograph of a Montagu's caselle standing in a hole on the Western Front and a throwaway caption telling us this was the man who had time to write an article for the Fishing Gazette in 1915 on "The Effects of Strapping and Sling on Trout".

The House of Hardy stood on a pinnacle alone. In this extraordinary labour of love, Drewett has preserved headlines and its history in a book that is a treasure trove for anglers and historians alike.

□ Brian Clarke's column appears on the first Monday of each month.

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THE TIMES MONDAY JANUARY 4 1999

ATHLETICS

# Champions who benefit from help in long run

David Powell on the importance of charities in promoting the development of Britain's top athletes

LAURE RAMPLING, an Essex solicitor, has run the London Marathon for a variety of charities. He has raised thousands of pounds for leukaemia research, thousands more for a children's hospice, and has helped to send a British boy with cerebral palsy to an institute in Hungary for treatment. Lately, though, Rampling has changed tack, for which he makes no apology.

While those he has assisted in the past might be perceived as more deserving causes, Rampling is not taking lightly his responsibility to the Ron Pickering Memorial Fund. It is a charity that raises money for promising young athletes and among those who have benefited in their youth are Iwan Thomas and Denise Lewis, Britain's athletes of the year.

"Perhaps it is not as important as helping out a cancer charity, but it is important," Rampling said. "This is a good direction to move in. These are young athletes who would not normally get assistance without help of this kind. Some of these kids are from deprived backgrounds."

"You look at the cancer and children's charities and think, by doing this, you are not helping people who are afflicted in some way but those who are strong and healthy, but it makes us all feel good to see people like Iwan Thomas do what he did this year."

As teenagers, Thomas was helped for three years, Lewis for two. Steve Smith, the Great Britain men's team captain, and Jamie Baulch, the British indoor record-holder for 400 metres are others who were assisted by the Pickering fund before taking their names.

The numbers are staggering: 54 and beneficiaries were in action in the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur last summer and another 28 took part in the world junior championships in Annecy, France. "The charity would not be in existence if it was not for the Flora London Marathon," Jean Pickering, who runs it, said.

"If Iain was to come away from the Olympics with

a dozen gold medals, we would all enjoy the glow of that achievement," Rampling said. "I sat on the edge of my seat as Linford Christie and Sally Gunnell won gold and it brought a lump to my throat. We need to help these young people to bring accolades to our country."

Some £40,000 is distributed each year to young athletes by the Pickering fund, set up in

1991 in memory of the BBC athletics commentator and coach. More than half is raised through the London Marathon. In other words, Britain's most visible and popular athletics event, a road race, is playing an essential part in helping to encourage developing talent in track and field.

"It is crucial to us," Jean Pickering, Ron's wife, said. "These youngsters are 15, 16 and 17 and get no lottery funding. There is a lot of wastage at that age because kids lose heart as they go from juniors to seniors. The money is geared towards keeping them in the sport."

Darren Campbell exemplifies the dangers. A double silver medal-winner at the world junior championships in 1992, Campbell drifted out of the sport and into football when he found the transition to the senior ranks difficult. Campbell returned, encouraged by Christie, to become European senior 100 metres champion last year, but other finalists in the class of 92 have been lost from the sport.

"We helped around 200 youngsters last year, when we raised £21,000 through the marathon, and we will help another 200 this year," Jean Pickering said. "I feel chuffed that we have been able to do so much."

The 1998 Flora London Marathon raised £15.7 million for charity, an increase of £5 million in two years. Of the 23,000 who ran, 76 per cent resented a charity, up 11.5 per cent since 1996. "No other marathon in the world has a charity side as large and dynamic," David Bedford, the London Marathon head of marketing, said.

Anybody wishing to run in the 1999 Flora London Marathon for the Ron Pickering Memorial Fund should contact the fund administrator, Norman Urmston, on 01992 467712.



Thomas: achievements



Lewis: assistance



Radcliffe, second from the right, leads the Great North cross-country race. Wami, the winner, is on the left

## Ethiopians run off with honours

MILLION WOLDE and Gete Wami, of Ethiopia, produced superb performances against high-quality fields to win the Great North cross-country race at Durham.

The pair were outstanding in the second International Amateur Athletic Federation World Cross Challenge fixture of the season, which included Jon Brown and Paula Radcliffe, both of Britain.

Wolde, 19, who trains with his countryman, Haile Gebrselassie, showed all the hallmarks that already have him pencilled in as a natural successor to the world record-holder at 5,000 metres and 10,000 metres by winning his 9km contest in 27min 02sec, two seconds quicker than Thomas Nyariki, of Kenya, who was a second ahead of Brown.

The good news for the Britain selectors is that Brown wants to represent his country in the World Cross Championships at Belfast in March. The runner declared himself satisfied with his performance. "I have won here for the last two years, but I think this is possibly my best ever run in this event," he said.

The Durham meeting has also been a happy hunting ground for Radcliffe, whose wins in 1993 and 1995 announced her arrival on the senior international scene, but she could finish only fourth on Saturday.

Wami ran the 6.5km course in 21min 51sec, 13 seconds ahead of the Commonwealth 1,500 metres champion, Jackline Maranga, of Kenya, and 19 seconds in front of Anne Marie Sandell, of Finland.

Radcliffe, who was a further eight seconds behind, blamed her disappointing result on a bug. "To be honest, I thought I would be struggling earlier in the race," he said. "I felt good for the first three laps, but when Wami put her foot down I couldn't respond and she went away."

John Mayock was furious with himself and a steward after misjudging the finish of his 3km race. He and Philip Tulba, of Basingstoke, thought they were on their last lap when they still had another to run.

"It was diabolical," said Mayock. "I know I should have been counting the laps but I was racing to win. When the steward opened the tape and ushered us towards the finishing straight I just went for it."

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

## Arizona upset Cowboys' wagon

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

ADRIAN MURRELL scored one touchdown and ran 74 yards to set up another on Saturday, leading the Arizona Cardinals to a 20-7 upset of the Dallas Cowboys, their first play-off victory in 52 years. The Cowboys had won nine matches in a row over the Cardinals, who now advance to a National Football Conference quarter-final next weekend away to Minnesota Vikings.

Aeneas Williams intercepted two passes for Arizona, who had not beaten a team with a winning record all season until stunning the Cowboys.

"I went out like David did," Williams said. "All he had was a slingshot. I had the Arizona Cardinals. This group of guys has fought all season. Nobody gave us credit. Credit must be earned. We earned it."

Jake "The Snake" Plummer passed to Murrell for Arizona's first touchdown after 12min 13sec. Chris Jacke adding a 37-yard field goal to give Arizona a 10-0 lead at the break. Murrell beat the Dallas defense on the third play of the second half to set up Plummer's touchdown pass to Larry Centers and Jacke added a 40-yard field goal.

In the other play-off match, the American Football Conference contest between the Miami Dolphins and the Buffalo Bills, Trace Armstrong, of Miami, snuffed out Doug Flutie's attempted rally in the final seconds as the Dolphins ended a three-game play-off losing streak to Buffalo with a 24-17 victory in Miami. The Dolphins' first play-off victory since 1994 leaves them with a quarter-final match at either Denver or the New York Jets.

Flutie completed 21 of his 36 passes for a career-high 360 yards against the Dolphins, but the Bills were turned over five times. The most crucial came at the Miami five-yard line, when Flutie hesitated as he looked for a receiver and Armstrong knocked the ball loose. Shane Burton recovered with nine seconds to play to clinch the victory for Miami.

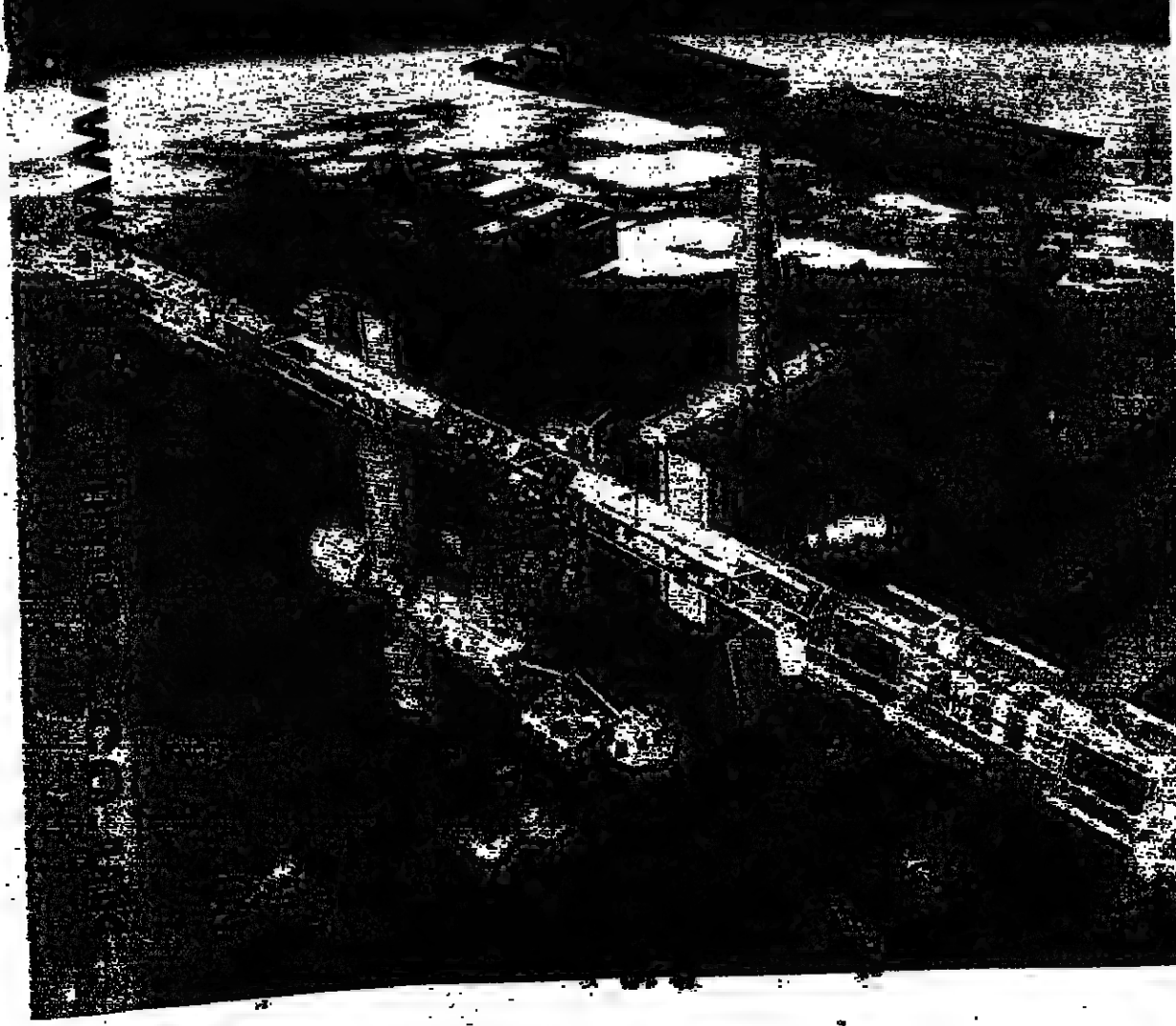
Results, page 38

## THE TIMES

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## SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Two good players made mistakes on the first trick of this deal, a godsend for a bridge writer - none of that interminable rooting through the dunghill to unearth a gem at trick eleven.

Dealer North Love all Rubber bridge

♠ 78	♥ K109543	♦ 32	♣ A74
♠ J102	♥ A076	♦ K8853	♣ N
♠ Q	♥ S	♦ E	♣ W
♠ K5	♥ AJ2	♦ KJ1084	♣ Q102
♠ AQ843	♥ 875	♦ 95	♣ J6

W	N	E	S
1H	1C	Pass	1D
All Pass	2D	2S	3NT

Contract: Three No-Trumps by South. Lead: seven of spades.

On the lead of the seven of spades the declarer (Howard Cohen) played the jack from dummy. East (Tom Townsend) covered with the queen and Cohen won with the king. Now after taking his diamonds he had to play a club, and West went in with the ace to play another spade, enabling East to cash five tricks in the suit for two off.

Do you see the errors on the first trick? As East is playing his partner to hold a doubleton spade, he should just duck the first spade, preserving the defence's communication. However, once East has covered the jack of spades, South should have withheld his king. Now the defence cannot run the spades, but it is not all over. East switches to a heart, which West wins and returns a heart. Declarer has seven

tricks in the red suits and needs two more. The problem is that if he plays on clubs he may have to lose two tricks there. But if he plays spades first, East can win and clear the hearts. The solution is to start by cashing the king and ace of diamonds. When the suit breaks 2-2, it is likely that East has a 6-3-2-2 shape. So declarer continues with a club to the queen. If West wins and returns a club declarer can rise with the king. Here the jack falls but even if it doesn't, provided East has no more than two clubs declarer can play spades safely to set up his ninth trick.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

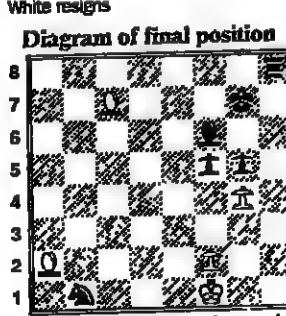
## KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Bunched field After the early rounds of the Hastings Premier tournament the race for the lead is intense with only half a point separating the leaders Sokolov and Shipov from the pursuing pack. In the fourth round Sokolov struck an important blow by defeating Shipov in a highly theoretical line of the Grünfeld Defence where White's initiative turned out to be insufficient to compensate for his lost pawn.

White: Sergei Shipov Black: Ivan Sokolov Hastings Premier 1999 Grünfeld Defence

1 d4	Nf6
2 c4	g5
3 Nc3	g5
4 e5	Nc5
5 e4	Nc5
6 bxc3	Bg7
7 Nf3	c5
8 Bb1	O-O
9 Be2	Qa5
10 Bc2	cxd4
11 exd4	Qc2
12 O-O	Bg4
13 Bg5	h6
14 Bb4	a5
15 Bb7	g6
16 Bg3	a4
17 h4	Nc6
18 h4g5	h4g5
19 e5	Bc3
20 Bb3	Nd4
21 e6	e5
22 d7	Qc6
23 Bg4	Qc4
24 Bb1	Qd5
25 Re1	Qd8
26 Bf5	Qd8
27 Bb4	Qd8
28 Qh5	f5
29 Bb3	Rd7
30 Rb1	Qh6
31 Qh6	Bh6



Matthew Sadler, the British grandmaster, is one of those in the hunt for the lead, while grandmaster Jon Speelman has a respectable 50 per cent. However, Tony Miles is languishing without a single win whilst local grandmaster James Plaskett is at the bottom of the table, equal with the French representative, Fressinet, with two losses and no wins.

### Keene online

You can send me your queries, puzzles, problems and games direct by e-mail. The address is keene@chessmail.com. The best contributions from Times readers will be published either here or in the Saturday Times Weekend column.

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

### WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

- ROMPU  
a. Mutual enjoyment  
b. Interrupted  
c. A secret organisation
- HYPOID  
a. Many-sided  
b. A disease  
c. Gearing

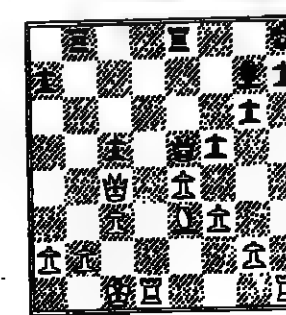
- BEGUINES  
a. Dancers  
b. Mendicants  
c. Pious women
- LAMPASSETTE  
a. A scalp  
b. Damask  
c. Stage-lighting

Answers on page 43

### WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Pavlovic - Karapanos, Ponomovo 1998. The black position appears to be the more aggressive but White broke through with a fine combination. How?



Solution on page 43









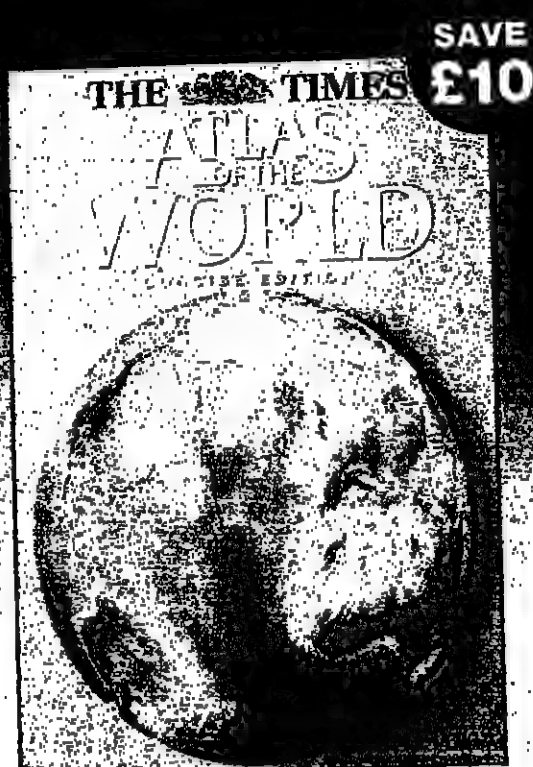


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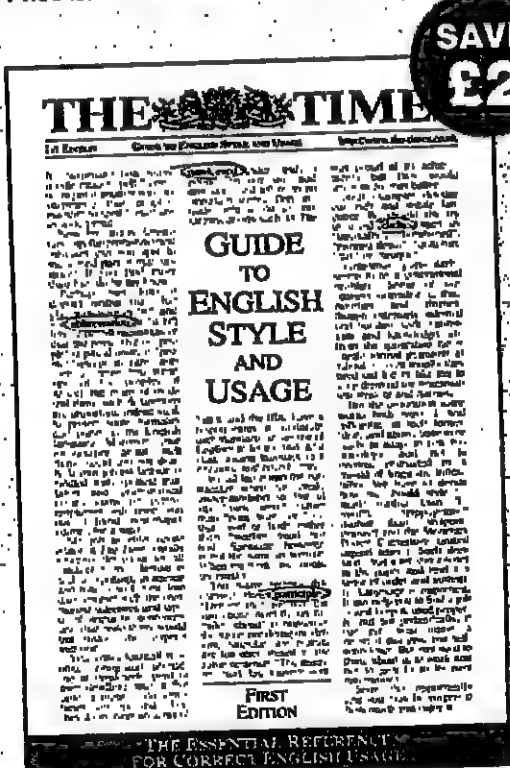
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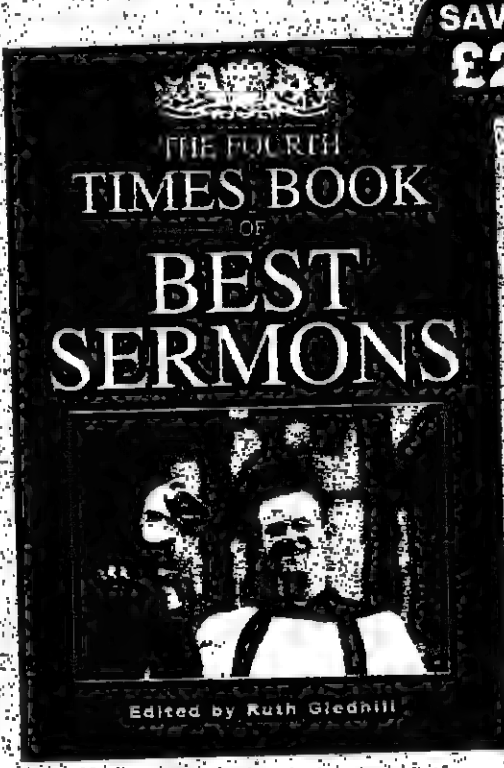
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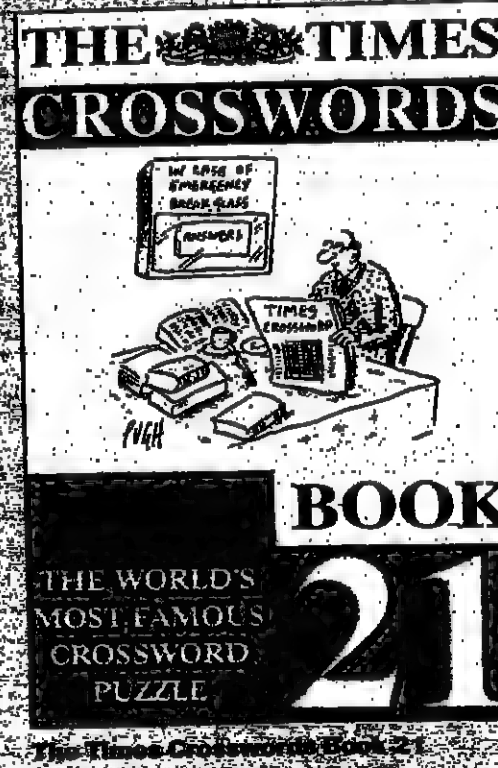
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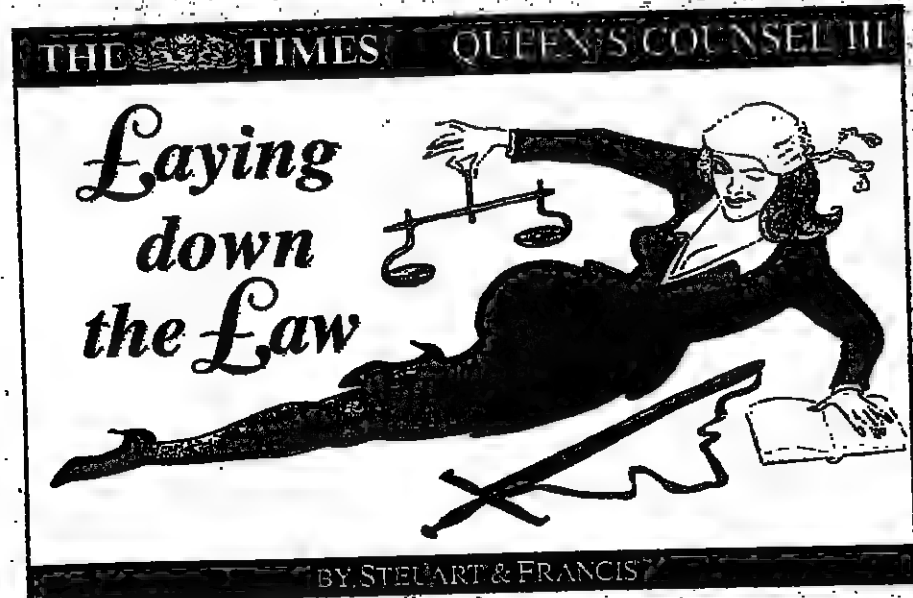
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## Capitalisation, week's change

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## ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES				
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES				
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES				
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES				

## BANKS

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
BANKS				
BANKS				
BANKS				
BANKS				

## BREWERIES, PUBS &amp; REST.

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
BREWERIES, PUBS & REST.				
BREWERIES, PUBS & REST.				
BREWERIES, PUBS & REST.				
BREWERIES, PUBS & REST.				

## BUILDING MATERIALS

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
BUILDING MATERIALS				
BUILDING MATERIALS				
BUILDING MATERIALS				
BUILDING MATERIALS				

## CHEMICALS

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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CHEMICALS				
CHEMICALS				

## CONSTRUCTION

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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CONSTRUCTION				
CONSTRUCTION				

## ELECTRONIC &amp; ELECT.

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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## ENGINEERING

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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## INSURANCE

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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## INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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## MEDICALS

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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## PHARMACEUTICALS

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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## RETAILERS, FOOD

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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RETAILERS, FOOD				
RETAILERS, FOOD				

## RETAILERS, GENERAL

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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## SUPPORT SERVICES

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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SUPPORT SERVICES				

## FOOD MANUFACTURERS

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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## HEALTHCARE

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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HEALTHCARE				

## HOUSEHOLD GDS &amp; TEXT.

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT.				
HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT.				

## LEISURE &amp; HOTELS

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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LEISURE & HOTELS				

## MINING

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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## OIL &amp; GAS

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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## PROPERTY

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## TELECOMMUNICATIONS

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## TRANSPORT

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## WATER

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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## ALTERNATIVE INV. MARKET

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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## SHORTS (under 5 years)

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## LONGS (over 15 years)

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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## Nissan tipped to link with rival

By Our City Staff

NISSAN, the troubled Japanese carmaker, is reported to be close to announcing a tie-up with one of its biggest Western rivals. It is known to have held talks with Renault, DaimlerChrysler and Ford for several months, and could unveil an agreement with one of them by the end of the month.

Experts believe that any such deal is likely to fall short of a full merger or takeover. Instead, it is expected to involve sales and distribution arrangements and some sort of collaboration over the development of new car models.

Reports yesterday suggested that the Nissan car factory in Sunderland, which recently came top of a European productivity league table, could benefit by being adapted to produce more than one car marque. The plant, which has operated since 1986 and turns out some 280,000 Primera and Micra cars a year, employs 4,300 people and is poised for expansion.

An alliance between the debt-laden Japanese group and one of its rivals would be just the latest deal in an industry that is beset by overcapacity and poor profitability.

DaimlerChrysler, which has for some time been in talks to acquire Nissan's truck manufacturing arm, is itself the product of the recent \$92 billion (\$54 billion) marriage of Germany's Daimler-Benz, which owns Mercedes, and Chrysler of the US.

## BC Partners poised to buy Allied Domecq business

By Dominic Walsh

BC PARTNERS, the venture capital group, has emerged as the front-runner to buy Canrell & Cochrane, the Irish drinks distributor owned by Allied Domecq, in a deal worth up to £330 million.

Allied, which acquired full control of C&C last July when it bought out Diageo's half share, has been sounding out potential trade and financial buyers after shelving plans to offload the business via a stock market flotation.

Although insiders claim a flotation is still a possibility, City sources believe Allied is in advanced negotiations over a sale to BC Partners. The sale price is thought to be close to £300 million, although the total figure, after including a dividend payable by C&C to Allied, is nearer £330 million. Warburg Dillon Read's private equity arm is also thought to have been in the running.

The predicted price tag is likely to disappoint City analysts who had placed a value of between £600 million and £700 million on C&C when it was put up for sale last summer through the Investment Bank of Ireland and Goldman Sachs. Allied is believed to have paid about £270 million for Diageo's 49.6 per cent stake.

C&C, which is one of Ireland's biggest drinks suppliers, distributes the likes of Bulmer cider and Britvic soft drinks. It also has a number of its own brands including Bally-



Tony Hales hopes to forge an alliance of his own after the link-up between rivals Grand Metropolitan and Guinness

gowan, the mineral water, and Tullamore Dew, the Irish whiskey.

Allied Domecq's disposal of C&C is likely to provoke calls for some of the proceeds to be returned to shareholders. However, the group may choose to return to the acquisition trail as it seeks to respond

to the challenge posed by the merger a year ago of its biggest drinks rivals, Grand Metropolitan and Guinness, to form Diageo.

Tony Hales, Allied's chief executive, has made no secret of his desire to respond to the merger by forging an alliance of his own. However, his at-

tempts to coax his preferred candidate, Seagram, to the altar have come to nothing. The Canadian spirits and entertainment group recently announced its intention to go it alone and the prospects of a marriage now look remote.

For BC Partners, the purchase of C&C would be one of

its biggest acquisitions since it was spun out of Barings after the merchant bank's collapse in 1995. In July it acquired Hurst Publishing, the company behind *Auto Trader* magazine, in a £260 million deal, then in December it paid £100 million for the Ross Breeders chicken division of Hillsdown Holdings.

## PwC takes acquisition trail in Israel

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN TEL AVIV

THE world's largest accounting and consulting firm, PricewaterhouseCoopers, is looking to expand in Israel. Several businesses are on its shopping list, which is headed by plans to buy a management software business.

The firm, which was created last year out of the global merger of Coopers & Lybrand and Pricewaterhouse, said that it is looking at acquisitions via its Israeli affiliate, the accounting firm Kesselman & Kesselman.

According to Avraham Berger, managing partner in Kesselman, the firm is looking specifically for a management software company because "it is understood that Israel is a leader in this area". The firm is said to be talking to several companies.

Jonathan Shimshoni, chief executive of the sister practice Kesselman Consulting, said that the firm is also considering acquisitions in other areas of consulting, such as marketing, human resources, systems consulting or software assistance.

Jermyn Brooks, global managing partner in PricewaterhouseCoopers, said separately that PwC is setting up a \$50 million (£29 million) global fund to invest in high-technology and life science companies over three years. "I am certain some of these funds will find their way to Israel," Mr Brooks told a news conference.

ence. He said that the investments would be of between \$2 million and \$5 million per company.

PwC is working with Kesselman to bring international companies to Israel, particularly in high-tech fields, Mr Brooks said. "We see great potential in the development of industry, especially high-tech industry, and of the investment in Israel of world-leading conglomerates," he said.

## Strutt & Parker lifts hotels side

STRUTT & PARKER, the upmarket estate agent, has bolstered its hotel property arm by acquiring William Hillery Leisure & Hotels for an undisclosed price (Dominic Walsh writes).

The deal, which has taken nine months to negotiate, quadruples the size of Strutt & Parker's hotel and leisure division. The enlarged business will operate from William Hillery's offices in London and Salisbury.

Strutt & Parker, still an independent partnership, operates from 22 offices throughout the UK.

## P&O woos its wharfies to alter working ways

By Adam Jones

P&O, the British shipping group, faces a month of tense union negotiations as it tries to persuade the workers at its cargo-handling facilities in Australia — known as "wharfies" — to agree to job losses and other measures aimed at increasing productivity.

P&O is the largest container port operator in Australia, controlling half the waterfront and employing about 1,500.

The company has just started talks with the Maritime Union of Australia (MUA), seeking to reach separate local agreements on manning of its cargo operations in Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne and Fremantle.

The MUA hit the headlines last year when its members

picketed Patrick, P&O's biggest stevedoring rival, in a dispute that split Australians.

P&O, which is determined to avoid such a costly confrontation, said that it has already arrived at a framework agreement with the MUA that signals the union's willingness to improve productivity.

The company wants to outsource some back-up functions, such as cleaning and maintenance, while retaining the union's traditional dominance in loading and unloading of cargo. It also wants different shift patterns and other flexible working measures.

The Sydney operation is likely to be the toughest for P&O to reform because the union is seen as most militant there.

## Investors await view on suing

INVESTORS in Powerscreen, the Northern Irish engineer that was rocked by an accounting black hole last year, face a prolonged wait to discover whether the company is to sue three former directors or its former auditor, KPMG (Adam Jones writes).

There had been hopes that Powerscreen would have a firm recommendation from Herbert Smith, the City law firm, by Christmas, advising on whether to proceed with legal action against any of the parties.

However, a decision is understood to have been pushed back to this month at the earliest. The former directors who could be targeted by Powerscreen are Shay McKeown, the former chief executive, Pat Dooley and Barry Cosgrove.

The Serious Fraud Office is investigating the accounting irregularities.

## Reuters makes a billion changes to greet the euro

By Robert Lea

YESTERDAY lunchtime saw Geoffrey Sanderson a happy man. He'd been planning to work non-stop, fuelled only by adrenalin, he said, until 6pm Sunday evening, by which time the last of one billion bits of information would finally have been changed.

As it was, Reuters, for whom Mr Sanderson was running the show as project manager of the euro conversion weekend, had deemed itself "euro-fit" seven hours ahead of schedule and Mr Sanderson was off to get some lunch.

But even as he was looking at stepping away from his desk at the Reuters mission control in London's Dock-

lands, the first calls were coming through to Reuters Help Desk hotline.

Yet those seeking evidence of a crumbling in the City edifice, despite claims throughout the Square Mile of a conversion weekend job well-done, were left waiting for their story.

"The calls have been similar to what we get during a normal working week," Mr Sanderson said. "It's 'where do we find this bit of data' and 'how should we be using this product?' We have had no reports of any failures."

Reuters as a premier provider of foreign exchange transaction systems in the City should, more than anyone,

have known the extent of the job at the weekend.

The past three days has seen it put 700 people on the case, about 5 per cent of its staff and 100 more than it had previously thought it would need. The extra pairs of eyes and hands were essentially data-checking, but they enabled the company to sign-off as "prepared" at 11am Sunday morning.

So everything to go smoothly this Monday morning, then? "Ah," said Mr Sanderson, "let's see. We'll have a better idea in the couple of hours around 8 o'clock when the market opens in London."

Reports, pages 1, 6, 48

### WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 37

#### ROMPU

(b) Broken, interrupted or displaced. The French for "bust". In Heraldry, an Armorial Charge that is broken may be described as Rompu. But the past participle is most frequently applied to geometrical charges and lines.

#### HYPOID

(c) Hypoid gear is a combination of the spiral bevel and worm type. It is very quiet in operation. The motion of the teeth is a combination of rolling and sliding, causing high loading pressure and high rubbing speed. Very special "Extreme Pressure" lubricant is essential.

#### BEGUINES

(c) Women leading a pious but not monastic life, in the late Middle Ages mainly in the Low Countries. Some lived alone, others in communities. They took vows of celibacy, but were free to renounce them. They clashed with the religious authorities, mainly because of their belief in a direct personal relationship with God.

#### LAMPASSETTE

(b) A type of damask. It looks like that produced by the secondary weft of Lampar. One or more weft threads working together form the ground and the pattern motifs. The latter are formed by floats bound in a weave in which the ends interlace in groups of two or three.

#### SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

Solution: 1 Rsh7+! Ksh7: 2 Rsh: 3 Qh6: 3 Qh7+ and mate follows

### CHANGE ON WEEK

#### THE POUND

US Dollar  
1.6640 (-0.0095)  
German Mark  
2.7731 (-0.0324)  
Exchange index  
99.7 (-1.1)  
Bank of England official close (4pm)

#### STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share  
3551.3 (+17.7)  
FTSE 100  
5882.6 (+15.4)  
New York Dow Jones  
9189.41 (-28.58)  
Tokyo Nikkei Ave  
13842.17 (+135.44)

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## BP denies falling oil price will cost 1,000 UK jobs

By OUR CITY STAFF

BRITISH PETROLEUM yesterday denied that the collapse in the oil price would cost 1,000 jobs in its UK operations.

The British oil major, which has been catapulted into the mega-major with its £33 billion takeover of Amoco of the US, making it the largest company on the London Stock Exchange, said it is not expecting heavy job losses in its North Sea operations.

A spokesman for the company said yesterday: "When the merger with Amoco was announced last August we said that 6,000 jobs would go, but that most of these would be in the States. As a consequence of falling oil prices this number may be slightly higher, but any job losses will still be concentrated in the US."

He added that, in comparison, job losses in the UK would be "fairly small".

BP currently employs nearly 3,500 people in its exploration and production arm. Most of these jobs are based in Aberdeen.

Reports have suggested that numbers may be cut by up to 40 per cent. BP, however, denied that there would be mass redundancies in the UK over coming months.

Fears were sparked after the price of Brent crude oil collapsed to its lowest level for 12 years, falling below the \$10 level.

With weak demand for oil and overproduction, the industry has seen considerable consolidation over the past year as a means of controlling and reducing costs.

Other big mergers, such as those between Exxon and Mobil and Total and Petrofina, are likely to result in job cuts, both in the UK and abroad.

Amerasia Hess, Lasmo, Enterprise Oil, Texaco and Shell have already announced job cuts in the UK.

The company also denied reports that it could write off about £2 billion from its oil assets when it announces its 1998 results next month. A spokesman for the company said: "This is complete rubbish."



New Deal on offer in the high-tech jobcentre at Brixton Hill, South London, where job-seekers locate posts by computer

## New Deal is accused of ignoring small firms

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

SMALL COMPANIES are virtually being ignored by the New Deal, the Government's programme to reduce unemployment, according to a survey for the Federation of Small Businesses.

The federation believes that unless things improve, the national network of jobcentres responsible for implementing the Government's flagship scheme might as well be privatised.

Researchers found that jobcentres had contacted only 15 per cent of the 1,800 small and medium-sized businesses questioned in the survey. The study also found that some smaller companies complained that they were sent poor calibre

candidates, while 44 per cent said that confusion was the worst feature of the New Deal. The federation says that jobcentres should be privatised if they cannot provide a better service for employers wishing to join the Government's unemployment initiative.

The organisation, which represents 125,000 businesses, thinks that smaller companies are losing out on the scheme, which gives employers a subsidy of up to £75 a week for New Deal workers.

Dr Bernard Juby, the federation's employment spokesman, said: "The findings of the survey suggest new impetus is needed to get the New Deal working for small businesses."

Although it is early days for the scheme, a time limit should be given to get things running smoothly.

"If it cannot make the grade, the Employment Service has prime high street locations which would be attractive to the private sector."

The Government launched the New Deal soon after coming to power to find work for the long-term young jobless, but the scheme has since been extended to older people.

The Department for Education and Employment denied that the Employment Service was failing smaller businesses over the New Deal. A spokesman said that the federation's comments were "at odds with

their own survey, which was in key aspects encouraging."

He said: "More than 35,000 employers have now signed to New Deal and the overwhelming majority of those are small and medium-sized enterprises. Business satisfaction with New Deal and New Deal recruits is one of the core measures on which we are evaluating the performance of the programme and continuously driving forward to improve standards."

The Government said that its research showed that 82 per cent of smaller companies that had contacted the New Deal information line were pleased, very pleased or extremely pleased by their experience.

## Caradon close to agreeing sale of Everest

By CAROLINE MERRELL

CARADON, the struggling building materials group, is poised to sell its Everest double-glazing subsidiary to the privately owned Bardox Group, based in Manchester.

Bardox, which specialises in home improvements, is also interested in buying Caradon's other doors and windows manufacturing division. It is believed to have bid about £40 million for the divisions.

Caradon announced in September that it planned to sell off its Everest subsidiary in an attempt to refocus the company on plumbing, electrical controls and printing personalised chequebooks.

Jürgen Hintz, chief executive, who took charge just over a year ago, decided that Everest, along with three other subsidiaries — Caradon doors and windows, Camic, a steel fittings business and Terrain plastic piping — did not fit with Caradon's future strategy. The doors and windows business posted profits of only £100,000 in the first half of last year. Warburg Dillon Read was asked to carry out the sale of the four subsidiaries.

Bardox was set up a decade ago and had sales of £85 million last year. Two years ago, 31, the venture capital firm, bought a 20 per cent stake in Bardox, with the aim of building it up to become a leader in the home improvements market. Caradon's pre-tax profits were £3.7 million, while operating profits fell from £65 million to £63 million.

It is thought that Caradon believes that selling Everest and the doors and windows manufacturing division separately from the two other divisions will raise more money.

Caradon's shares have been tumbling in value since 1994. Mr Hintz believes that one of the group's problems has been its strategy of charging a premium price for simple items such as boilers, wiring boxes, and door bells. These are lines that tend to be affected by cheap imports.

Buyers for the other two businesses are expected to be finalised shortly.

## Moment of truth for retailers in the spotlight

Retailers will this week start to do their final count of Christmas takings and begin telling investors whether trade was as bad as it seemed.

The first post-Christmas trading statement is due today from Goldsmiths, the jeweller. It will be followed by Littlewoods, the privately owned catalogue and high street retailer, on Thursday. The bulk of trading statements are due next week and the week after.

Retailers complained almost unanimously in the run-up to Christmas that trade had been hit by a sharp downturn in consumer confidence, and many began their winter sales a week or so early.

Some before Christmas Day. This means that even if the volume of sales rose, profits will have suffered.

One of the most eagerly awaited trading statements will be from Marks & Spencer, but it is unlikely to come out before the week beginning January 25. Sir Richard Greenbury, chairman, said that sales had "fallen off a cliff" in November, and described the clothing market as "a bloodbath".

Trade is not thought to have improved since, and the company has taken what for it is the almost revolutionary step of resorting to television advertising to attract customers to its winter sale.

Next, which appears to have been doing relatively well, was one of the first to make a trading statement last January, but it may well hold off for a few days this time.

Many retailers have been reluctant to set the date for their trading statement, hoping to choose the best moment nearer the time. But Signet, the jewellers, Selfridges and Boots have indicated that they will issue theirs next week, on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday respectively. Kingfisher (Comet, Superdrug, Woolworths and B&Q), Sears (Wallis, Warehouse, Richards and Freemans), House of Fraser, Laura Ashley and Austin Reed are likely to come out in the same week, as will Dix-

ons (Dixons, PC World and Currys), which has results to announce. Debenhams will issue its statement the following Tuesday.

Sears will be watched particularly closely because Philip Green, the retail entrepreneur who has made two informal offers for the group, has said he will wait until he sees the group's Christmas trading statement before deciding on his next move. Freemans, the Sears catalogue company, is believed by analysts to have been through a particularly tough time.

Arcaida, the company behind Dorothy Perkins, Top Shop, Miss Selfridge and Burton Menswear, which was punished by the market for a surprise profits warning just three weeks before Christmas, is another company with a lot to prove. It is likely to issue an update on trading to coincide with its annual meeting on January 21.

Richard Hyman, chairman of the retail

Verdict retail consultancy, said he expects this to emerge as the worst Christmas for retailers for years. He said that early indications were that the January sales will also turn out to be something of a damp squib. "I don't see how the January sales are going to be fantastic," he said. "They'll be okay, because they've got to be, because Christmas trading was so bad."

"I'm not sure that a lot of consumers are being that easily motivated by the lowering of prices. For a lot of them, going to a shopping centre like Lakeside is just a day out."

The only retailer so far to indicate how Christmas went has been John Lewis, which issues weekly figures. It said that after a very slow start to the month it expects to see December come out flat against last year. However, it has opened a new store during the year, at Cribbs Causeway in Bristol, and December is likely to have seen a disappointing fall in like-for-like sales.

SARAH CUNNINGHAM

## Germany quells talk of VAT rise

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN BONN

THE GERMAN Government yesterday moved quickly to quell reports that it is planning to raise the value-added tax rate in the country by two percentage points.

Reports in the German press said that Gerhard Schröder's Social Democrat-led coalition planned to raise VAT to cover a multibillion mark gap in the country's budget.

The reports, citing sources in both federal and regional governments, said Bonn needed extra cash to cover the cost of corporate tax reforms and measures to fight unemployment. The Government would justify the rise by saying they were needed to harmonise sales taxes within the European Union, it was claimed.

A German Finance Ministry spokesman said the report in the *Bild am Sonntag* newspaper, was complete fiction. "There are no plans to raise value-added tax, and we do not need to do so to finance government spending plans."

The European Commission has proposed VAT rates in the EU should be between 17 and 21 per cent, instead of the current 15 to 25 per cent range. Germany's rate is 16 per cent.

## Bill Gates may bid for BT television franchise

By ROBERT LEA

WESTMINSTER CABLE, arguably Britain's most prestigious cable television franchise, could end up under the ownership of Bill Gates, the computing multimillionaire.

British Telecom is preparing to auction its two cable franchises — Westminster and another in Milton Keynes — ahead of the launch of its interactive television home shopping and banking joint venture with British Sky Broadcasting, which is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*.

However, it has emerged that Bill Gates's Microsoft may bid for the franchises, which would not only give Mr Gates his first presence in UK cable television, but also give him a foothold in television Internet access to British homes.

BT is selling the franchises as a condition of its 32.5 per cent stake in British Interactive Broadcasting in the consortium with BSkyB, HSB, the banking group, and Panasonic, the Japanese electronics group. It has to do a deal by the spring, by which time BT is expected to be ready to launch.

BT, which is being advised by Hawkpoint, the corporate finance boutique managed by former NatWest executives, could raise hundreds of millions of pounds from the sale because of the unique nature of Westminster Cable.

Its potential viewing customers include not only MPs but also some of the smartest addresses in the capital.

Neither BT nor Microsoft was prepared to comment yesterday. Investment in cable television, however, would not be new to Microsoft, which bought a stake in Comcast in the US in 1997.

A sale to Microsoft is also likely to suit BT, which already has a partnership with Mr Gates's company through its WebTV Internet television venture in the UK. It would mean not having to sell out to the other British cable operators, who rival BT in the UK telephony market.

Bill Gates may gain a foothold in television Internet in the UK

The main bidders expected to line up for the two franchises are the cable TV operators Cable & Wireless Communications, Telewest Communications and NTL, which recently made an offer for Newcastle United.

However, it has emerged that Bill Gates's Microsoft may bid for the franchises, which would not only give Mr Gates his first presence in UK cable television, but also give him a foothold in television Internet access to British homes.

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Bill Gates may gain a foothold in television Internet in the UK

## AIM hopes for brighter 1999

By FRASER NELSON

INVESTORS are hoping the Alternative Investment Market can recover from its disastrous performance in 1998, when it suffered its sharpest setback.

Since the market was set up in July 1995, its stocks have dominated the top ten risers of the following years — with about an equal representation among the losers. This year, the AIM managed only three of the top ten performers and dominated the hall of shame.

Its best shot was Independent Energy Holdings, which came to the market two years ago to profit from deregulation of electricity. It now supplies some 800 companies, and the City decided to take it seriously this year as it started to win contracts. This took the shares up a staggering 292 per cent.

Next best was Fieldens, which until recently was a sleepy agricultural concern

supplying tractor tyres. Derek Bonham, the former Hanson chief executive, bought a 29.9 per cent stake at 23p and said he would make serious acquisitions. The shares, which started the year at 26p, more than trebled soon afterwards.

However, the AIM's losers were even more spectacular. Investors in Selector lost 94 per cent of their holding over the year as the Israeli company — which makes a Fob Stop device that prevents beer dregs flowing from a dead barrel — failed to resolve its cash crisis.

Sibir Energy's only asset was stakes in oil companies that hope to do business in Western Siberia. Hopes of it making any sort of money from Russia collapsed over the year and the shares lost 91 per cent of their value.

The same fate befell Northern Petroleum, which used to pride itself on a 35 per cent option over a North Russia oil ex-

plorer. The economic concerns sent its shares down 90 per cent.

Analysts say that the AIM's problem is that still it lacks liquidity. Quite often the prices quoted are theoretical because no one is actually buying or selling.

Also, it openly bills itself as the riskiest bourse in London. This does not appeal to investors who have been stung by the sort of crash seen in July. Their confidence is slowly recovering, but they prefer the security of the FTSE 100 to taking a punt on the AIM.

Better conditions with the fully listed markets will need to continue longer before the recovery seeps back into the high-risk Alternative Investment Market. Only then will it have a better chance of delivering the "high-reward" part of the equation that has been missing for the best part of this year.

AIM table, page 44

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## Expect a better sort of recession

The pause that refreshes or another dire recession? We all expect 1999 to be a bad year, but the question is how bad. Forget the idea of a gentle slow-down. It is going to be much worse than that. The experts have been revising down their projections for ages now. Shave a bit off this month, then trim a bit more next, and after a few months the forecast will be much lower without getting out of step with others, and without any-one noticing that you got it hopelessly wrong in the first place. When the forecasters are playing that game, it pays to jump straight to the end result - recession.

In my view, the UK will find itself in technical recession this year, that is to say, there will be two consecutive quarters of negative growth. It will have been brought on principally by the lagged effects of super-strong sterling, and compounded by the weakness of markets in Asia. The consequent squeeze in manufacturing will result in lower investment spending and reductions in stocks. This will be compounded by the softness of consumer spending as people start to fear for their jobs in response to a rise in unemployment.

Yet this does not amount to a return to a familiar pattern.

The past three serious recessions have been characterised by profound structural weaknesses which the short-fall of demand has laid bare. The recession of the mid-1970s, which was ostensibly brought on by the first oil crisis, hit a corporate sector that was overmanned and badly managed, and an economy ravaged by rampant inflation and appalling industrial relations. By the time that the combination of the second oil crisis and the Thatcher Government's adoption of sado-monetarism delivered another cold shower in 1980-81, not much improvement had occurred. During the 1980s, however, the management of businesses improved markedly.

True, this did not stop the recession of 1990-91, but this was the direct result of the consumer boom of the late 1980s. Consumers had gone mad, driving up house prices to absurd levels and borrowing as if there were no tomorrow. The result was the need to impose 15 per cent interest rates on consumers weighed down with debt. Add in an overvalued currency tied to the European exchange-rate mechanism and you had the makings of another macroeconomic disaster.

Yet the improvement in the underlying position of British



ROGER BOOTLE

companies meant that when the interest rate and exchange rate squeeze came off in September 1992, Britain was able to enjoy a sustained expansion accompanied by only moderate inflation, amounting to the most successful period for the British economy since the war.

Now recession beckons again. This time, though, the corporate sector is, on the whole, well managed. Balance sheets are sound and profits high. Moreover, consumers have not been on a binge and their debts are reasonable. Nor, outside Central London, have house prices been pushed to ridiculous levels. Meanwhile, the public finances are extremely sound. Whichever it, let us say, the British economy is actually in rather good shape. Moreover, inflation is set to

fall further, to perhaps 1.5 per cent by the end of the year. Is there a danger that this decline will go too far and that consumers and businesses will anticipate falling prices and therefore put off purchases? I defer to no one in warning of the seriousness of the deflation danger, but, for 1999 at least, this bugbear should surely pass Britain by. The starting level of inflation is simply too high and pay is rising too fast for the change in psychology to occur so quickly.

Even so, the Monetary Policy Committee will be scurrying to protect its reputation against the charge that, having partly precipitated the downturn, it then failed to see its seriousness before it was too late. Meanwhile, in euro-land, the ECB is already under pressure to cut rates from the starting level of 3.5 per cent. If, as I expect, the euro is strong on the exchanges, then the MPC will have to keep cutting rates to stop the pound from being dragged up sharply against the dollar.

Interest rates are in a powerful downward trend which, in my view, will take them to levels unseen for a generation - back to where they began before the inflationary genie escaped from the bottle. Since 1981, each successive trough of the interest rate cycle has

been lower than the previous one. Indeed, the most recent peak, namely 15 per cent, was exactly equal to the low point reached in the middle of the Lawson boom. The last trough, when Kenneth Clarke was Chancellor, was 5.25 per cent. Rates are now surely destined to fall well below that. Older readers will recall that the Bank rate was set at 2 per cent between 1932 and 1951. By the end of this year, these rates may be down to 4 per cent, but the bottom of this interest rate cycle may ultimately be below 3 per cent.

So much for 1999. Doubtless you'll be by now wanting to know about next year. Will this year's downturn continue or will it be followed by a recovery? If there is one thing you should never forecast, it is the future. So, for once, I am going to give a typical economist's answer - it all depends. But what it depends upon is profoundly significant. It depends upon how serious the world situation becomes and whether deflationary psychology has started, by then, to get a grip. It will not turn on a crisis at home in either the corporate sector or the public finances. After all that we have gone through, that is, as the football pundits would say, "a result".

## A patent need to nurture our promising inventors

Trevor Baylis, the inventor who created the clockwork radio, which operates without electricity or batteries, makes a plea for wider support for a new Academy of Invention in Britain

For many years, I have campaigned for an Academy of Invention in Britain. A place where you and I may go for the encouragement, help and resources to turn a seemingly wildcat, crazy idea into a product or process that will benefit us all.

Peter Mandelson, the former Trade and Industry Secretary, seemed to have grasped this notion quite well. His recent address to Parliament made this clear, but, alas, he has now left the Department of Trade and Industry and a newcomer has taken over. My concern is obvious. Do I have to start all over again with the new minister? How long do we all have to wait for help?

It is not widely known that when you apply for a patent you have only 12 months before you have to find extraordinary sums of money just to keep the possibility of securing your intellectual property outside of the UK.

Believe me, 12 months is not very long. I have now been waiting five years for help. How many inventors with promising ideas have gone to the wall in that time? As individuals, we do not have all the skills needed to bring an idea or process to the marketplace. An academy would be there to do just that.

The deal is simply this: viable projects will be undertaken by the academy on the understanding that, when the product or process is sold or licensed, the academy will share in the rewards. This income will, in time, serve to maintain the academy and make it cost-effective. It is not the intention for the academy to give money to projects, but



Trevor Baylis, in the workshop where he devised wind-up radios, wants an academy to help seemingly crazy ideas to become products

to spend money on projects on behalf of the inventor. We provide the expertise and resources to ensure that the project is fully protected and safely brought to the marketplace. In discussion with Lord Putnam, chairman of the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (Nesta), I found him extremely encouraging. Nesta can be approached for funding for certain projects and the organisation

will give assistance within its remit. Unfortunately, money to help us to start up cannot be obtained through this route. When we approached the DTI for funds, it referred us back to Nesta, also suggesting that co-operation with the Institute of Patentees and Inventors (IPI) would assist.

Discussions with them are ongoing, but it is not easy. That organisation was formed some 78 years ago and I have

supported it faithfully for many years. The academy must be self-supporting and I am unsure whether the change of gear that would be necessary for the DTI to run with it would be acceptable to the present IPI members who control it.

The Government should have involvement in the scheme because the academy is about people. If our inventive citizens are to benefit and become successful, the most effective way would be with government support with a view to creating an independent body. This would not only help inventors to bring their ideas to fruition, but also to protect them from being exploited and losing control of their ideas, and, more often than not, failing to be rewarded properly.

It is important that the Government shares financially in the success of the academy, but it will do so by the process of personal and corporate taxation of the successes. Is it too much to ask that in order to do so it should allocate some of the £200 million that the DTI spends on its own Innovation Unit to the 'people's academy'? Academy funding will also come from industry and from its members, but that comes later as we grow. It must always be accountable and, preferably, be run as a charitable organisation. The name of the game is to break

even in each financial year. We have already found willing support from a wide variety of persons and bodies, including members of both Houses of Parliament, many firms and individuals concerned with innovation, various academic institutions and societies, banks, businesses and individual inventors.

Just as art is taught in schools, so it is essential that invention is taught in our schools. Youngsters should have an understanding of their own intellectual capacity and their ability to create intellectual property.

We can teach the history of invention, and what has befallen inventors in the past, the importance of the Patent Office and what services it provides, how to do market research, how to work on business plans and how to work on a prototype and resolve technical problems. Extraordinary camaraderie exists between inventors, and those who become successful because of an academy would, I know, stand with newcomers to the academy to help them in their hour of need. Never again should a person feel ashamed or awkward in saying he or she is an inventor. After all, if you can solve a problem, you are on the way to becoming an inventor.

### TELEVISION CHOICE

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Against the Odds  
BBC2, 7.30pm

Oliver Watson presents a four-part series in which he says the difficulties, at least where most of his fellow farmers are concerned. It is that the subsidy to British agriculture, currently £4 billion a year, should be ended, leaving the market to supply and demand. Although himself the recipient of a £100,000 annual cheque from the taxpayer, Watson says the system is crazy and has turned farmers into subsidy junkies. He has support from Sean Rickard, former economist to the National Farmers Union who argues that subsidies raise the price of land and make farmers dependent. Watson's proposal is less well received by Michael Hart, who struggles to make a living from a tiny dairy farm in Cornwall. Watson is sympathetic but unmoved. If small farmers are subsidised, why not corner shops and hairdressers?

The Vice  
ITV, 9.00pm

A new police series needs to have a very good excuse for entering an overcrowded field. The justification for *The Vice*, an audience-grabbing if it ever there was one, is that no other police show is concentrating on prostitutes, gangs and pornography. Episode one offers all that, with a rape and a murder thrown in. But against such cynicism it must also be granted that in its grubby chosen area this is an efficient piece of television, with writing, camerawork and acting up to standard. As Inspector Chappel, the admirable Ken Stott leads a team which includes David Harewood, the National Theatre's Othello, and Caroline Catz, seen recently as a sexually harassed police officer in *The Bill*. Anna Chancellor, once of *Kavanagh QC*, is the police shrink destined to share the lonely Chappel's bed.

Mayday  
Channel 4, 9.00pm

The team which treated us to series about plane and road crashes turns its attention to tragedies at sea. Like all such ventures, it tries to mitigate the potential for voyeurism by highlighting safety lessons. Programme one is about things that go wrong with seagoing for pleasure. But the main



Patrick Mahade as John Harrison in *The Search for Longitude* (BBC2, 9.30pm)

concern is with the terrible things that can happen on cruise liners. More and more people are taking cruises and more and more ships are catching fire. In the worst incident to date the *Scandinavian Star* went up in flames between Norway and Denmark, with the loss of 158 lives. According to the inquiry, the ship was unfit to sail and the actions of the crew made matters worse. The programme says there is no little regulation that it could happen again.

Harrison Special: The Search for Longitude  
BBC2, 9.30pm

A season of programmes exploring the history and uses of time opens with a deserved tribute to John Harrison, an Adam Smith-like hero of the 18th century, there was no sure way that sailors could know the position of a ship on the high seas. Map makers had long since used grid lines of latitude and longitude to indicate points on the surface of the Earth. But only latitude was measurable. Enter, from a small village in Lincolnshire, John Harrison, carpenter and self-taught clockmaker. After four workshops were wrecked off the British coast in 1707, with the loss of 2,000 lives, Parliament offered a reward equal to £6 million today to anybody who could devise a means of finding longitude at sea. Harrison was convinced that the answer lay in clocks but it took him 43 years to prove it.

### RADIO CHOICE

Beau's Gallery  
Radio 4, 11.00am

Tony Benn has left his stamp on history. But for him, we wouldn't be in the happy position of being able to buy, *inter alia*, a David Hockney miniature for the price of a postage stamp. Until Benn became Postmaster-General in the 1960s, special issue stamps were few and far between. Now, something like a billion commemorative stamps are printed every year. Beau's Gallery entertainingly graphs the ingenuity of the high and lows. There's a good yarn about a stamp design showing the importance of water. One artist came up with the picture of a lavatory with the seat up. The Queen appeared to be looking down into the basin. The design was rejected in favour of a picture of a domestic tap.

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Zoe Ball 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Kevin Greening 2.00pm Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Chris Moyles 5.00 Dave Pearce 6.00 Laura Lee 7.00 The Radio 1 Breakfast Show 8.00 The Radio 1 Lunch Show 1.00 The Radio 1 Afternoon Show 2.00 The Radio 1 Evening Show 3.00 The Radio 1 Night Show 11.00

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Alan Lester 7.30 Sarah Kennedy 9.30 Ken Bruce 12.00 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Ed Stewart 3.00pm Johnnie Walker 4.00pm The Radio 2 Breakfast Show 5.00pm The Radio 2 Lunch Show 1.00pm The Radio 2 Afternoon Show 2.00pm The Radio 2 Evening Show 3.00pm The Radio 2 Night Show 11.00

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Report 6.00 Breakfast 9.00 Nick Campbell 12.00 The Midday News 1.00pm Race and Co 4.00pm The 7.00pm News 7.30pm Football Legends 8.00pm Jimmy Armitage 9.00pm The Radio 5 Live News 10.00pm The Radio 5 Live News 11.00pm The Radio 5 Live News 12.00am The Radio 5 Live News 1.00am The Radio 5 Live News 2.00am The Radio 5 Live News 3.00am The Radio 5 Live News 4.00am The Radio 5 Live News 5.00am The Radio 5 Live News 6.00am The Radio 5 Live News 7.00am The Radio 5 Live News 8.00am The Radio 5 Live News 9.00am The Radio 5 Live News 10.00am The Radio 5 Live News 11.00am The Radio 5 Live News 12.00am The Radio 5 Live News 1.00am The Radio 5 Live News 2.00am The Radio 5 Live News 3.00am The Radio 5 Live News 4.00am The Radio 5 Live News 5.00am The Radio 5 Live News 6.00am The Radio 5 Live News 7.00am The Radio 5 Live News 8.00am The Radio 5 Live News 9.00am The Radio 5 Live News 10.00am The Radio 5 Live News 11.00am The Radio 5 Live News 12.00am The Radio 5 Live News 1.00am The 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# Sometimes silliness is the sensible option

**V**ic Reeves, in clown costume and bald wig, squeaked: "After you've had your supper and said prayers, how long is it before your head slips down your pyjama bottoms?" Interviewee Danton Hill looked puzzled and answered that he didn't wear pyjamas.

As "The Stots", two inane circus clowns with their own show, Reeves and Mortimer treat their guests with as little respect as Dennis Pennis ambushing celebrities and a good deal less than Mrs Merton. It would be nice to record that Hill took it in good part, but he didn't actually get the opportunity. He just sat there while they asked if his nose had been tested in a wind tunnel and if he took a map or just followed everybody else.

It was not the first hands-down gag either. You don't have to have the mind of a pubertal boy to enjoy Bang, Bang, Mr Reeves and Mortimer (BBC2, Friday).

but it helps. As the first show of their new series were on, I realised that I must still have one myself. After three years of thigh-rubbing, stuffed bear-hurting, Ulrika Jonsson-baiting, the revived sketch format was so completely silly from start to finish that it is quite difficult to explain why any of it is funny.

Occasionally there is a hint of satire, such as the mock docu-soap about a sleazy Hull club where the host, Paul Barron, has Sellopposed ladies' knickers to the bar-stools for his "Erotic Night", or "Fun! Fun! Fun!", a sketch scathingly exposing seaside slot machines as tacky rip-offs. There is also a touch of Post-Modernist something or other in the enormous Gilbert and Sullivan-style portraits which dominate the set.

But such glimpses of social observation and critical intelligence are completely irrelevant. Most of the material consists of the two of

them beating each other's heads with huge frying pans, fake pistols and baseball bats or chopping down two trees which are blocking their car doors instead of driving past them. Reeves and Mortimer tap into something very basic and very ancient.

**B**eing silly is, after all, a kind of freedom and they have an exuberance and self-confidence which found an unlikely echo in another new series which, in other respects, could hardly have been more different. In My Dark Pastures (Saturday, BBC2) the first of three Irish Journeys, the award-winning correspondent Fergal Keane revisited his upbringing in north Kerry and the family legacy of Irish nationalism.

It took a while to get going. Sou-fall opening shots of drizzly fields, traditional pipe music and poetry suggested we were in for a stiff shot of emerald mist. In fact it soon

## REVIEW



Paul Hoggart

gelled into a crisp and pungent account of Irish attitudes to British rule, to partition, to the past and to the grip of the Church. Keane is from independent-minded Scotland. At 19 his grandmothers carried guns for the volunteers in her bloomers. His author uncle decried the "priest-ridden" state the country became for a generation or two. Keane himself bemoaned the "tired national-

ism... the puritanical Catholicism... suffering and guilt and darkness and shame".

It became an upbeat story of progress and hope, told through brief but resonant interviews. The account was doubtless partial, but Keane showed a free, happier and more self-confident country with the fastest-growing economy in Europe, more optimistic and at ease with itself than ever before, secure enough to compromise with the Protestants over the future of the North.

The Irish, it seems, are looking forward to a bright future, so let us hope that they have actually got one and are not about to be plunged into the Apocalypse with the rest of wretched, sinning humanity. A paradox of modern television is that, while much of it seems to be "dumbing down" faster than Vic Reeves can bash himself on the head with a frying pan, some documentaries attempt to cram more

and more ideas into our heads at an ever faster rate.

**A**pocalypse When? (Channel 4, Sunday), an Equinox special, was one of the most ambitious and densely informative programmes that has ever assailed my cognitive functions. A little more structure, digestion and direction to the argument would have made it more satisfying to watch. But as they packed reasonably lucid explanations of the three-fold calendars of the Ancient Egyptians, the history of Christian calendars, atomic clocks and the slowing of the Earth's rotation, the origins of ideas of the Apocalypse, several doomsday cults and the millennium bug into 75 minutes, it seems churlish to complain.

Unfortunately they were no more able than anyone else to predict exactly how much confusion will be caused by the "Y2K problem", but we met a New York com-

puter consultant called Peter de Jager who has been warning people about it since 1977. The members of the Bethel Gospel Assembly, also of New York, are pretty sure it's going to be catastrophic, however. This will suit them just fine.

They are good and ready for the arrival of the Antichrist, Whore of Babylon, Four Horsemen and all those other undesirable from the Book of Revelation, because assembly members will be included in something called "the Rapture". This means they will be swept up into Heaven with all the other true believers while the rest of us face the forces of evil, unable to programme our videos.

So it was reassuring to learn that the 2,000th anniversary of the birth of Christ almost certainly passed uneventfully several years ago, and we can go back to hitting each other over the head with giant frying pans.

## BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (4658)

7.00 BBC Breakfast News (73075)

9.00 Killy (7306817)

9.45 The Vanessa Show New series.

Vanessa Feltz presents a live show featuring fashion tips, celebrity interviews, and a chance for aspiring models to get their break (7344547)

10.55 News Weather (7221181)

11.00 Real Roads (7321751)

11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (7228617)

11.55 News Weather (7444013)

12.00pm Call My Bluff (63094)

12.30 Battersea Dogs Home (82278)

1.00 One O'Clock News (71162)

1.30 Regional News Weather (8632617)

1.40 Neighbours Arnie and Arnie fall out (7351243)

2.05 Inmate Eve's judgement is called into question when a man she once let free is labelled the prime suspect in a multiple murder enquiry (7055077)

2.55 Going for a Song (890162)

3.20 The Weather Show Contemporary weather stories (7221013)

3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (1276502)

3.45 The Littlest Pet Shop (8307365)

3.55 Badger and Badger (8731346)

4.10 Pocket Dragon Adventures (7302928)

4.20 Rugrats (854423) 4.35 Muzzy (108454) 5.00 Newswatch (8701278)

5.10 Blue Peter (8834433)

5.35 Neighbours (71501278)

6.00 Six O'Clock News Weather (733)

6.30 Regional News Magazine (861)

7.00 This is Your Life Michael Aspel surprises another unsuspecting guest with the big red book (73948)

7.30 Watchdog Healthcheck New series. Alice Beer and Dr Mark Porter look into the alleged dangers of using mobile phones, putting phone shields and headsets to the test. Plus, how a change of diet could help ease the suffering of many of the country's diabetics (7425)

8.00 Eastenders Tiffany's death takes its toll on Frank (73956)

8.30 Birds of a Feather Sharon and Tracy's lives are changed forever when their husbands leave for work and never return. First-ever episode of the comedy, starring Pauline Quirke (71473)

9.00 Nine O'Clock News Regional News Weather (7307)

9.30 Paddlington Green A transsexual prostitute blames frequent fits for soliciting "fags", but a time-served wig-maker gives clients his honest opinion (740122)

10.00 Bravo Two Zero Final part. The crack SAS troops face mounting odds deep behind enemy lines, as countless Special Forces soldiers attempt to lead them safely to the rescue. Sean Bean stars (722) (7352348)

10.55 Match of the Day (7152558)

12.30am Havana (1990) Romantic drama, starring Robert Redford as a gambler who tempts fate by getting involved with a rebel leader's wife in 1950s Cuba. With one Oen Alan Arkin. Directed by Sidney Pollack (7325338)

1.50 Weather (7429507)

1.55 BBC News 24 (73380327)

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## BBC2

7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show

Waggy Poo (866018) 7.05 Teletubbies (2267452) 7.30 Yogi's Treasure Hunt (2667888) 7.50 To You (3122704)

8.20 Taz-Mania (8707074) 8.40 Police Dot Shorts (8475888) 8.55 Waggy Poo (8661928) 9.00 Roundabout the Hedgehog (7353742) 9.10 The Phil Spector Show (8707540) 9.25 The Phil Spector Show (8155078) 10.00 Teletubbies (85013)

10.30 FILM: Conspiracy of Hearts (8654348) 12.20pm Hot Shots (821013) 12.30 Working Lunch (89520)

1.00pm The Red Rover (7303329)

1.10 The Arts and Crafts Hour (7278704)

2.10 Darts: World Professional Championship Highlights of last night. Includes News at 2.40 and 3.25 (86342549)

5.30 Cricketer: The Ashes Australia v England. Highlights of the fifth Test (588)

6.00 The Simpsons Marge lands the role of Blanche DuBois in an amateur musical production of A Streetcar Named Desire (7144620)

6.25 The Simpsons Mr Burns has Homer institutionalised on the basis of a written serial test which Bart fails in on his father's behalf (7144620)

6.45 Hit, Miss or Maybe (71787029)

7.00 Digital Planet New series on the marvels of modern communications technology, beginning with a look at how a computer hacker may soon become as great a threat as weaponry, and the combat pilot (74758)

7.30 Oliver Watson presents a new series looking at British farming (730pm)

7.30 Against the Grain New series. Oliver Watson looks at British farming (731)

8.00 Beat Route Jackie Holland goes in search of his musical heroes, boogie woogie pioneers Albert Ammons and Jimmy Yancey (58) (7278)

8.30 Food and Drink James Martin prepares spicy dishes for a salsa convention, while Antony Worrall Thompson cooks smoked haddock fish cakes (73013)

9.00 Maccabees and Wise Eric and Ernie folk-singing, boating and Cossack dancing in an episode from 1962. Featuring the Kaye Sisters and Terry Lightfoot and his New Orleans Jazzmen (7144549)

9.25 Suspended in Time (722907)

9.30 Horizon Special Account of the Lincolnshire carpenter John Harrison, the field of naval navigation (727346)

10.30 Clockwatch The world's most accurate mechanical timekeeper (739181)

10.30 Newswatch (715742)

11.13 Suspended in Time (730029)

11.15 Darts: World Professional Championship Round-up of the action (839810)

11.55 Weather (731704)

12.00 The Phil Spector Show Phil is granted a "perfect day" (731783)

12.30am Close

## HTV

5.30am HTV Morning News (85826)

6.00 GMTV (824742)

6.25 Trisha (7336588)

10.25 This Morning (73267487)

12.15pm HTV News and Weather (7352381)

12.30 HTV Lunchtime News (733346)

1.00 Shortland Street Guy discovers the truth about Troy (79758)

1.30 Home and Away Vince seeks Justice's forgiveness (732617)

2.00 The Jerry Springer Show Outrageous America talk show (7133287)

2.45 Dale's Supermarket Sweep The shopping quiz (737936)

3.15 HTV News Headlines (7226568)

3.20 HTV News (7216181)

3.25 HTV: Mopop's Shop (2206704) 3.35 Tots TV (8755928) 3.45 The Adventures of Captain Pugwash (875182) 4.00 Oogy and the Cookbooks (8580159) 4.30 It's a Mystery (8534079) 4.45 Sabrina the Teenage Witch (1051029)

5.10 A Country Practice (602510)

5.40 HTV Early Evening News (7115907)

6.00 Home and Away (7144046)

6.25 WALES: Wales Tonight (734704)

6.30 WEST: HTV Weather (712100)

7.00 The West Tonight (712100)

7.55 HTV Crimestoppers (581452)

7.00 Wish You Were Here? Andrea Turner stays at a holiday village in the south of France, while Linda Lusvardi reports from Benidorm (73384)

7.30 Coronation Street Martin makes a shocking discovery (7471)

8.00 Who Wants to Be a Millionaire? Big-prize game show (74704)

8.30 Carol Vorderman's Better Homes A new home improvement series in which two teams of design experts help neighbours increase their properties' value (73639)

9.00 The Vice New police drama, centred on the Metropolitan Police's vice unit. Starring Ken Stott, Anne Charleston, Caroline Catz and David Harewood (718) (7487)

10.00 News at Ten Weather (735891)

10.30 HTV News and Weather (732617)

10.40 Nash Bridges Nash attempts to smash a counterfeiting ring (7327100)

11.40 Body Heat (1981) A lawyer gets involved with a woman who persuades him to kill her husband. With William Hurt and Kathleen Turner. Directed by Lawrence Kasdan (73214258)

1.45pm Football Extra Football League highlights (857300)

2.45 Dracula (1931) Bela Lugosi stars as the vampire Count Dracula. Directed by Tod Browning (1869327)

4.00 Trisha Show earlier (71) (8228817)

4.55 HTV Nightscreen (73556719)

5.00 Coronation Street (71) (53196)

## CENTRAL

As HTV West except:

12.20-12.30pm Central News Weather (8215839)

1.00 High Road (79758)

1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (8237054)

2.15-2.45 Home and Away (707365)

3.20-3.25 Central News (216151)

5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (825210)

6.25-7.00 Central News Weather (82574)

10.30-10.40 Central News (82574)

3.55pm Central Jobfinder '99 (2255134)

5.20-5.30 Asian Eye (4542105)

As HTV West except:

12.15-12.27pm Westcountry News Weather (862891)

12.27-12.30 Illuminations (8336756)

1.00 High Road (79758)

1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (8237054)

2.15-2.45 Home and Away (707365)

3.20-3.25 Westcountry News Weather (216181)

5.08 Birthday People (8820388)

5.10-5.40 Home and Away (6062510)

6.00-7.00 Westcountry News (91365)

10.30-10.40 Westcountry News Weather (82517)

As HTV West except:

12.15-12.30pm Meridian News Weather (862891)

5.10-5.40 Home and Away;

6.00 Meridian Tonight (907)

6.30-7.00 Country Ways (87)

10.30-10.40 Meridian News Weather (82517)

5.00-5.30am Freezone (53196)

As HTV West except:

12.15pm Anglia Air Watch (8294346)

12.20-12.30 Anglia News and Weather (8215839)

1.00-1.30 Upshott (79758)

5.10-5.40 Shortland Street;

6.23 Anglia Weather (83029)

6.25-7.00 Anglia News (34704)

10.29 Anglia Air Watch (833639)

10.30-10.40 Anglia News and Weather (82517)

Starts: 5.55pm Soane Street (714509988)

7.00 The Big Breakfast (7222242) 9.00 The

Cooby Show (71) (1689088) 9.30 The

Cooby Show (71) (8894910) 10.00 FILM: The

Four Feathers (7170810) 12.00pm

Helen's Out! Helen's Out! (7178847)

12.30 Soane Street (8895929) 1.00 Planned

Police (54669100) 1.00 Filmda (71) (54669100)

1.15 Ding Dong (71) (54669100)

1.30 The Ocean View of John Stannard (71)

(8894929) 2.00 Time Team (71) (35017758)

3.00 Garden Pioneers (71) (8894929)

3.30 Hampton Court Palace (71) (6558433)

4.00 Fifteen-to-One Highlights (71) (6558433)

4.30 The Montel Williams Show (71)

(5593452) 5.00 Planned Film (8397182)

5.30 Countdown (71) (65584704) 6.00

News at 6 (71) (65584704) 6.10 Home (71)

(9516581) 7.00 Paddy's Day (71) (8325232)

7.30 Newswatch (71) (65584181) 8.00 Dudley

(71) (5758148) 8.30 Paddy's Day (71)

(72337443) 9.00 Y Byd Ar Bedwyr (71)

(24167704) 9.30 Sport (71) (18657723)

FILM: White Men Can't Jump (71) (8524827)

12.40am Arthouse (71) (45245124) 1.40

Dividd

## CHANNEL 4

5.40am The Pink Panther (5002810)

6.00 Soane Street (82546)

7.00 The Big Breakfast (84013)

9.00 The





## PROFILE 44

### Behind the scenes of Reed Elsevier

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

# BUSINESS

SLUMP 46

Roger Bootle considers the 1999 recession

MONDAY JANUARY 4 1999

## Pressure grows for rate cut as job prospects worsen

By ALASDAIR MURRAY  
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE BANK of England is facing renewed pressure to cut rates this week after a new survey published today reveals that employment prospects are at their worst for more than four years.

Leading economists are also predicting that the economy began to shrink in the last quarter of 1998, the first contraction in economic activity since 1992.

The City, however, is sharply divided on whether the Bank's Monetary Policy Committee will make a further cut in rates at its monthly meeting this week. Many analysts believe that having reduced rates by 1.25 per cent in the past three months, the Bank will opt to wait for fresh indications on the health of the economy.

There is also increasing evidence that a last-minute Christmas shopping rush may have resulted in a better than expected performance on the high street. Banks are reporting record cash machine withdrawals and debit card spending over the Christmas period. Barclays said that £1.29 billion was withdrawn from its machines in December.

However, the Manpower Quarterly Survey of Employment Prospects shows that job prospects in all sectors of the economy are beginning to decline and that the trend rate is now similar to that going into the recession of the early Nineties. The

previously buoyant service sector is worst affected with nearly a quarter of companies expecting to reduce employment, compared with just 5 per cent planning to raise staffing levels.

Further bad news is expected in the publication of the gross domestic product data this month showing the economy effectively in recession. Steven Bell, chief economist at Deutsche Bank, predicted that the Bank would wait to see the GDP data before cutting rates again. However,

he cautioned that the Office for National Statistics may choose to be cautious in its first estimate of GDP — which is based on an analysis of only 40 per cent of the total data — because the figure is likely to prove pivotal.

Michael Saunders, at Salomon Smith Barney/Citibank, supported the view that the data will show that the economy contracted in the fourth quarter but added that the Bank is likely to reduce rates by a quarter point this month because weaker

ing activity data, has predominated since the last MPC meeting in December.

Two reports published by leading economic think-tanks today also support the view that the economy is now on the verge of a technical recession. However, Oxford Economic Forecasts and Cambridge Econometrics are optimistic that the economy will avoid a deep recession with growth totalling about 0.5 per cent this year and rising to between 1 and 2 per cent in 2000.

## Pound faces turbulent euro future

By ALASDAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT, AND CAROLINE MERRELL

THE pound faces a "highly uncertain" future and could suffer some torrid trading as the single European currency finally becomes a reality, the City and the Bank of England cautioned last night.

John Townsend, director for Europe at the Bank of England, said that the immediate outlook for sterling-euro trading is clouded. "It's a highly uncertain outlook, we'll just have to see in the market place how sterling behaves," Mr Townsend said.

Most analysts expect the euro to strengthen in the coming weeks as central banks and investors shift an estimated \$1 trillion of assets into the new currency. Asian central banks, in particular, have indicated that they want to buy

into euros to reduce their heavy reliance on dollars in their reserves.

As a result, many economists expect the pound to lose value against the euro, though there is a risk that the pound could also continue to be treated as a "safe haven" by investors.

Trapped between the dollar and the euro, sterling is likely to face some volatile trading. David Kern, chief economist at NatWest, said: "The euro is poised to be a strong currency that could threaten both the pound and the dollar. Over a period of months, the value of the pound against the euro is likely to fall."

Full-scale trading in the euro finally kicked off last night in Sydney, the first big currency market to reopen af-

ter the new year holiday, with the euro immediately making modest gains from last week's official conversion price.

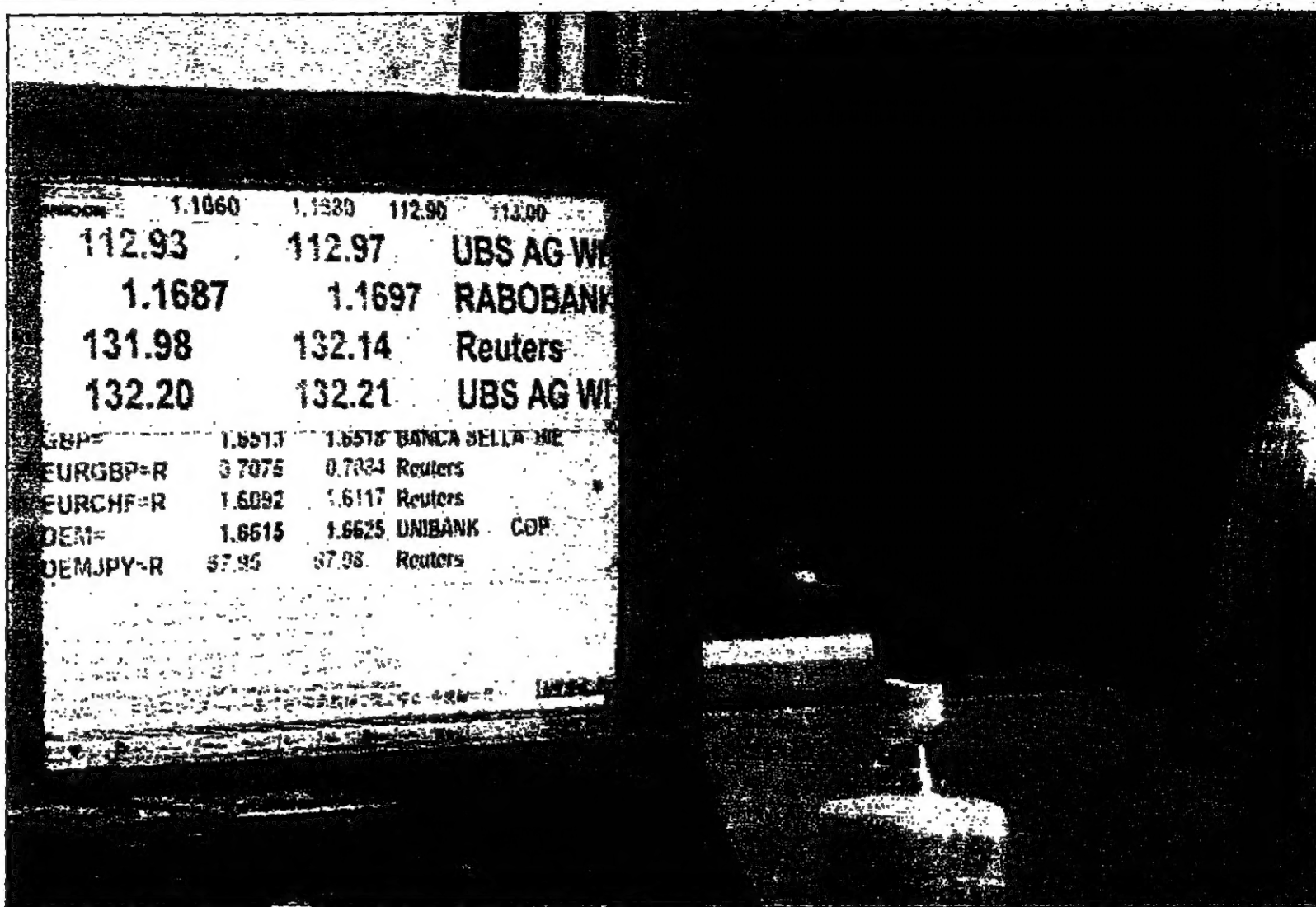
Sydney traders quoted an opening price of \$1.1747, compared with the European Commission's official conversion price of \$1.1685. The euro also strengthened against the pound, climbing from 70.54p to 70.80p.

Trade was reported to be light, a trend that is expected to continue in European markets today as dealers wait to see if any problems emerge at the end of the conversion process. The Bank of England, however, yesterday expressed confidence that the conversion process had gone to plan. David Clement, the Deputy Governor who has been overseeing euro preparations, said: "The conversion weekend across the City has gone very smoothly indeed. People are well prepared."

The Bank's comments were supported by other financial institutions, with many reporting that they were able to send home early some of the estimated 30,000 people at work in the City over the weekend.

Nick Turdean, euro conversion manager at Credit Suisse First Boston, said that banks could lose money if they found that their software systems were not reconciling accounts correctly in euros. If this happened, the bank would have to stop trading.

Reports, 1, 6 and 43



Japanese debut: A money dealer checks the euro rate on his screen at the start of euro trading at a Tokyo foreign exchange brokerage yesterday

## GEC joins race to buy Nats stake

By CAROLINE MERRELL

GEC, which is believed to be close to agreeing a merger with British Aerospace, its defence rival, has emerged as a potential front-runner to buy the 51 per cent of the National Air Traffic Control Services (Nats) that has been put up for sale by the Government.

The electronics group headed by Lord Stimpson of Dundalk is believed to be one of a

number of bidders interested in buying the stake in Nats.

Credit Suisse First Boston delivered a 180-page report on Nats to the Treasury and the Department of Transport just before Christmas. The Government is believed to favour a trade sale, rather than a straightforward privatisation. Nats handles about 1.6 million flights a year and makes operating profits of £50 million.

However, the privatisation

of Nats has a number of problems. One stumbling block has been the new £50 million air traffic control centre in Swanwick, Hampshire. Nats was forced to admit last year that the control centre could open five years late because of problems with a computer system being built for it by Lockheed Martin.

The privatisation has also hit

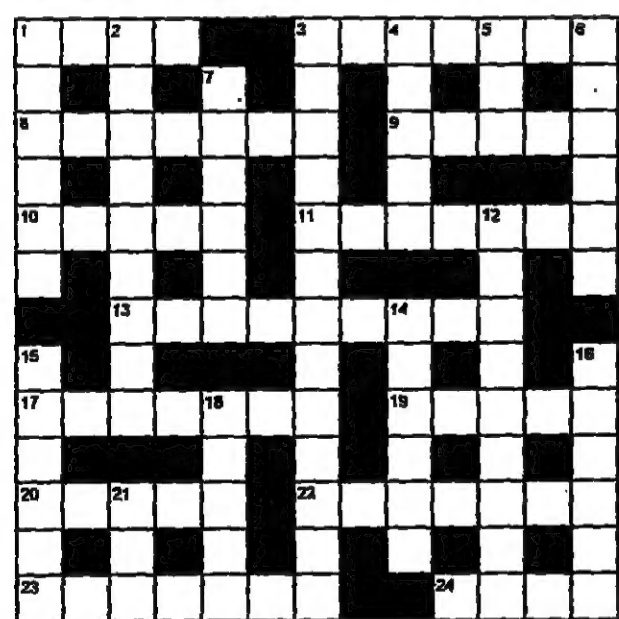
Scottish air traffic control centre at Prestwick, under the Private Finance Initiative. The plans could be in doubt because any revenue raised from the sale of Nats would be diminished by the project. The initiative, Sky Solutions, was to have been carried out in conjunction with Lockheed and Boeing. Under the plan, the companies would design, build and operate the Scottish centre for 25 years.

The legislation for the Nats

sell-off is not expected to be in place until the start of next year because of the need to decide how Nats will charge its customers.

The Government will retain a golden share in Nats but says it will not use its position to alter commercial decisions. The sell-off of Nats was announced last summer, at the same time as the announcement of the sale of the Tate and the Royal Mint.

## TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1605

### ACROSS

- 1 Fighting force (4)
- 3 Conspiracy to convict (slang) (5,2)
- 8 Sacred vocal piece (7)
- 9 Classical prophetic (5)
- 10 Small fish, herring (5)
- 11 "Some village" (Gruy) a Glasgow Park (7)
- 13 Two dots over vowel (9)
- 17 Set of clothes etc for baby (7)
- 19 Type of capital (architect) of bond (chem) (5)
- 20 Practise a suite (5)
- 22 Top of boat's side (7)
- 23 Pressure position (3,4)
- 24 Limit school period (4)

### DOWN

- 1 Right of approach (6)
- 2 Robinson Crusoe's servant (3,6)
- 3 A boxer; he fit, we gather (anag.) (13)
- 4 India tea-growing state (5)
- 5 (Tide) go down (5)
- 6 Elec. cable supports (6)
- 7 Sanskrit sacred books; seen in Bhutan, traditionally (6)
- 12 Withdraw (9)
- 14 Too thin (6)
- 15 Side of bacon (6)
- 16 Shout in fear, laughter (6)
- 18 Taut, nervous (5)
- 21 Social insect. 1 ac variety (3)

### SOLUTION TO NO 1604

- ACROSS: 1 Megastar 5 Aces 8 Cairn 9 Supremo 11 Bog 12 Yom Kippur 13 Ethic 15 Sawyer 18 Expletive 19 Fig 20 Sceptic 21 Idyll 22 Mask 23 Hysteria 24 Down 1 Macabre 2 Going 3 Sunny side up 4 Assum 6 Cheaply 7 Scour 10 Philatelist 14 Hapless 16 Regalia 17 Misery 18 Espion 19 Rayer

### SOLUTION TO THE TIMES TWO BANK HOLIDAY JUMBO

- ACROSS: 1 Tumkhameljo 7 Obstructiveness 15 Rejoice 16 Weakening 17 Mistletoe 18 Where there's a will there's a way 20 Oudo 21 Two-edged sword 23 Tadpole 24 Dumbfound 27 Nimbus 29 Turboprop 32 Origami 34 Telegraph pole 37 Eased 39 Emotionally 40 Remark 41 Decaying 43 Ardently 44 Margin 45 Smithsonian 47 Three 48 Guided missile 50 Disturb 51 Reputable 54 Minnow 55 Two-wheeler 58 Artisan 60 Racers player 63 Piano 65 The Charge of the Light Brigade 68 Undersold 69 Actuarial 70 Cremate 71 Hypersensitised 72 Ground staff
- DOWN: 1 Throw good money after bad 2 Tippet 3 Noises off 4 Hotshot 5 Mower 6 Nearside 7 Overweening 8 Shields 9 Righteous 10 Commendation 11 Inspector 12 Emerald 13 Bodeavour 14 Sari 19 Keep a dog and bark oneself 22 Old style 25 Mail order 26 Union flag 28 Brahmin 30 Operators 31 Play safe 33 Alignment 35 Handicap 36 Eye shadow 38 Spiritual 40 Regiment 42 Give away 46 Fire brigades 49 Shop steward 52 Patched up 53 Bangalore 54 Microwatt 56 Empress 57 Flouting 59 Securer 61 Estates 62 Rubicon 64 Alabama 66 Hello 67 Gush

## Goldsmiths poised to deepen retail gloom

By DOMINIC WALSH

GOLDSMITHS, the jewellery retailer that last month admitted being in bid talks, is today expected to add to the gloom pervading the high street with a disappointing Christmas trading statement.

A source close to the group, which is thought to be in talks with Alchemy Partners, the venture capital group, said yesterday: "There's very little good news coming out of the high street. Most people have had a pretty tough Christmas. In addition, last year's trading was boosted by windfalls."

However, today's trading update, which will cover the 48 weeks to January 4, is unlikely to make any reference to the takeover speculation that has lifted the Goldsmiths share price from a low of 99p to 169p in the past two weeks.

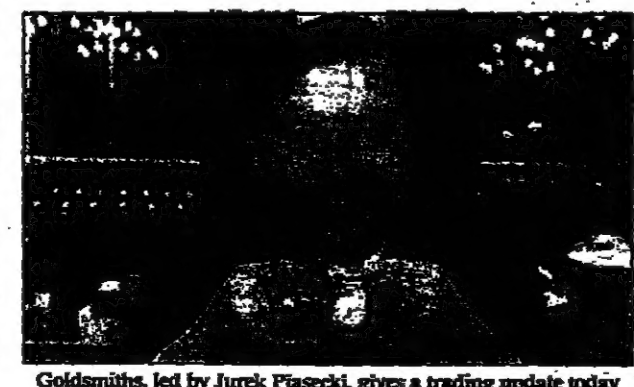
Jurek Piasocki, chairman and chief executive, is thought to have secured backing from

Alchemy to take Goldsmiths private in a deal pitched at about 185p a share, valuing the jeweller at just over £44 million. It would be the second time that he has bought the company out. Two years after he became chairman in 1985 he accepted a £43 million takeover from the rival Ori-

flame, only to buy the business back for £30 million in 1988. It was valued at £43 million at flotation in 1990.

Goldsmiths last month admitted receiving a "very preliminary approach" to enter discussions on a takeover.

Moment of truth, page 45



Goldsmiths, led by Jurek Piasocki, gives a trading update today

## Bid boost likely for LucasVarity

By OUR CITY STAFF

SHARES in LucasVarity are likely to receive a boost this morning amid mounting speculation that the motor components group has become a takeover target.

Heading the list of suitors mooted over the weekend is TKW, the Cleveland motor components and aerospace group. A year ago, the two companies formed a joint venture to develop power-assisted steering systems.

The rumours may be connected to suggestions that LucasVarity is considering reversing into a US auto components manufacturer. It recently had its plans to become a US company blocked by shareholders, but Victor Rice, its chief executive, believes a US quote is vital for it to participate in industry consolidation.

The list of potential US suitors includes Federal Mogul, Dana Corporation and Tenneco, while, in Europe, Valeo and Siemens are tipped.

## Tay chiefs face coup attempt

By ROBERT LEA

THE boardroom row at Tay Homes, the northern housebuilder, will erupt into an open coup attempt today when a disaffected leading shareholder calls for a mass sacking of directors and the election of himself as chief executive.

Tay Homes, which has seen its shares steadily decline over the past five years, has been the subject of investor discontent led by Phillips & Drew, a 15 per cent shareholder.

Last month the Tay board received demands for a strategic review of the company. In addition the man calling for

change, Richard Tice, chief executive of Sunley Group, the unquoted building company, and a 10 per cent shareholder in Tay, said that he should take over as chief executive.

Just before Christmas, however, Tay's chairman, Norman Stubbs, and its chief executive, John Swanson, rejected Mr Tice's demands.

Today Mr Tice, claiming the support of Phillips & Drew, will call for an extraordinary meeting of the company to remove Messrs Stubbs and Swanson, as well as Stephen Evans, the finance director, and Jack Green, non-executive director, from the board.

In their stead, the EGM proposal states that Mr Tice would become chief executive, backed by Peter Hedges, a 31 director, as chairman and Stewart Urry, a 31 director, as finance director. Mr Tice would become a non-executive.

Mr Tice argues that over the past five years Tay has underperformed the FTSE all-share index by 60 per cent and the building and construction sector by 40 per cent.

It is thought that he would like to run Sunley side by side with Tay and that this move would forestall any bidder taking Tay at a substantial discount to net asset value.

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